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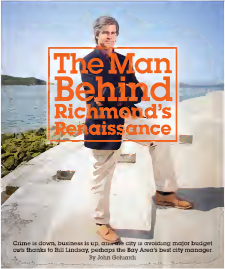

The Man Behind Richmond's Renaissance

Crime is down, business is up, and the city is avoiding major budget cuts thanks to Bill Lindsay, perhaps the Bay Area's best city manager.

By John Geluardi

CULTURE SPY 17

THE ANTI-RAPTURE MOVEMENT

Local atheists gear up for their own Judgment Day.

By Rachel Swan

Okay, so the Rapture is coming. You've seen the billboards. You've heard crackly voiced Harold Camping rhapsodize about it on his national Christian broadcast network, Family Radio. Unless you've spent the last several weeks in some kind of weird news bubble, you're surely aware that May 21 is Judgment Day, which means that adherents to the Christian faith will ascend into heaven, graves will purge their dead, and those of us who aren't "saved" will be left walking around with zombies. So says Camping, at least. Meanwhile, local atheists have their own Rapture to attend. They've mounted a billboard, too, right at the foot of the Bay Bridge. It includes a silhouette of Jesus and a sassy slogan: "The Rapture: You KNOW It's Nonsense."

Story inside

MUSIC 42

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On the Cover *Bill Lindsay. Photograph by Sonya Rovell.*

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"Last Call": fine beverage news and reviews
"Kitchen Sink": local restaurant industry news

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NEWS & OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS
KIND of BLUE

LETTERS

[illegible]

Jazz Musicians and A's Players

What a sad piece of truth in your article! With KCSM FM on in the background as I read your piece, I couldn't help but wonder if the sounds of jazz emanating from my radio was akin to a slow — albeit spirited — death march.

As informative as your piece was (e.g., BART's limited hours and the aging jazz lovers) I couldn't help but see the same parallels playing out with the Oakland A's and the talent they keep losing to other baseball markets.

While there are some shining moments, I fear we are losing the fight to other genres of music. It's a fight worth waging, nonetheless.

Finally, much praise to you for capturing the emotional highs and lows of the local jazz scene that I have been feeling for some time. Having been a fan of jazz since 1995, your article, without question, is the greatest piece of writing on the local jazz scene that I have read to date. I hope to read more of your work.

P.S. Two thumbs up to those who designed the cover page! It was the Miles Davis album theme that attracted me to your article.

Jeff Rogan, Berkeley

Listen Up

Jazz isn't played on the radio? That's what Rachel Swan said in her interesting and thought-provoking article. I beg to differ. The Bay Area is fortunate to have one of the few remaining all-jazz stations in the country at 91.1 FM and KCSM.org. We are proud to be a part of the Bay Area's jazz scene and broadcasting our 24/7 day non-commercial all-jazz format on the web as well. Check us out and help us to continue our mission of keeping jazz alive and well here and abroad, by supporting us during our spring membership drive at 1-800-527-6411 or KCSM.org.

Melanie Bowen
Program Director, KCSM Radio

Jazz Center for Whom?

Somehow, I don't think much of the $60 million being spent on the SFJAZZ Center is going to end up supporting local jazz musicians. I have a feeling the lion's share, if not all of it, will end up in the pockets of architects, construction workers, administrators, and jazz academics.

As a local jazz musician who's made a living playing improvised music for thirty years and is barely scraping by, it hurts to get a phone call asking for donations for a $60-million "jazz center." What about spending that money on publicizing the venues that already exist and subsidizing the pay of the musicians who play at those venues? The local venues need help — not more competition from a subsidized institution of jazz academics which will hire more East Coast jazz groups to perform while the local jazz players can't even afford to pay to hear them.

Matt Eakle, San Anselmo

Age Bias

Why is so much attention here on the high school contingent? Jazz is about life experience and soul expression and there are plenty of talented jazz musicians who never went to Berkeley High who are a lot older that are overlooked for these "hot new kids on the block." I realize they may be the future of jazz but one needs to look at motivation — is it the media attention spurring them on or the music?

Mary D'Ornai, Oakland

Where's the Love?

I think that the Bay Area jazz scene is very much alive. The musicians are working very hard and creatively to keep playing the music they love. The biggest part is that you have support for the music that you love. There is a lot of great music being played to an empty audience. These same folks would pack out the house if a rap or R&B group came to a major club, but you could hear crickets chirp if it were a jazz act during the week. Jazz is our American art form. Let's give it the love it deserves. Peace!

James Knox, Oakland

[illegible] High" News, 5/4

Get 'Em Young

As a graduate of Berkeley High in 1957, I am troubled by issues over weapons on campus.

Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number, although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

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During my years weapons were nonexistent even larger pocket knives.

The solution must start before these students even get to BHS. Through all lower school grades there must be conversations, counseling, information and in-depth education about the harm (with no upside benefits) that weapons bring.

A system must be employed where previous offenders are screened and checked randomly on campus.

Violence begets violence.

Bob Kurtz, Berkeley

Powerless Victims

Comparing administrative processes in Richmond Unified to BUSD requires a hard look at some of central differences between the "Berkeley way" and school districts nationally. Berkeley's superintendent and board claim they are prohibited from reporting on-campus robberies to police; this is a violation of state and federal laws that require violent crimes be referred to local law enforcement.

Wrap-around services start with early identification. If the school district is in the business of covering up crime there is little likelihood that prevention will be meaningful. Compare the high school incident data with the district suspension data and the mandated state reporting data. The ad hoc safety committee is spending time listening to the district explanation of discrepancies rather than focusing on systemic data collection capable of targeting high-risk kids for early intervention purposes.

The Berkeley school district is in the business of protecting offenders from accountability; thus it encourages the silly excuses of student leadership rather than encourage a cultural shift in attitude and behavior.

Victims of school crime have no rights, and are made invisible because those in power continue the lie that the offenders are the only "real" victims, claiming juvenile offenders are victims of society failures, not the parent gap.

The bullies and the bullied are grist for the mill as Berkeley's bystanders pay the bill.

Laura Menard, Berkeley

Trouble-Makers Aren't Victims

Yet another article that doesn't question how the rights of all the other students are being overlooked as we continue to label the trouble-makers as victims and those in need of our security. As has been the case for many years, the problem gets circumvented from how to make the campus secure to what we should do to protect the youth who are making the campus unsafe. Tautological thought process at its finest. Berkeley needs to stop telling the lie and take responsibility for all students and, as Laura Menard says, if they won't report problems, or if they under-report problems, how are they going to go in and identify the problems early in students' school careers in order to help them?

Heather Wood, Berkeley

I'm Becoming Republican

I'm a stay-at-home mom to a Berkeley High freshman, a preschooler and a newborn, and I already volunteer on campus. We moved to Berkeley, bought a home, and decided to raise our children here because of Berkeley idealism. However, when the rubber hits the road, this idealism is putting my child (who attends Berkeley High) in danger. In addition, my experiences interacting with Berkeley's elected officials — around this and other issues — have been pretty disappointing. Honestly, I have found our elected representatives to be aloof and dismissive. I never thought — as a blue dog Democrat — that I would identify with the big government bashers on the far right. However, the more I interact with the career politicians in Berkeley who believe they know what's best and ignore their constituents, the more I feel myself moving to the right — and wishing that I wasn't bankrolling their lackluster efforts with the ginormous property tax bill I dutifully pay twice a year.

Erin Kemp Smith, Berkeley

We Need Adult Eyes

Fear and stress are antithetical to learning. Thus the provision of a safe and secure campus atmosphere is mandatory for a suitable educational climate. Laura Menard lists the need to "encourage a cultural shift in attitude and behavior." Unfortunately, cultural adjustment and attitude change are not fast developments that occur overnight. And while professionals theorize the physical, social and mental minefield to be negotiated, school administrators are immediately responsible for ensuring a climate conducive to learning. In the interim, I suggest a remedy that might achieve multiple and positive goals, and at costs well below the $250,000 projections in Ms. Scherr's article. The district could consider generous hiring of parents (and caring adults) in part-time assignments as hall monitors, yard roamers, and as watch-outs along adjacent streets. The omnipresence of many watchful adults could do much to provide a sociable atmosphere that over time could help in ushering the cultural and behavioral adjustments so necessary to realizing the student's desire for a true and functioning open campus.

James Vann, Oakland

Cool People Have Babies

I agree that the Murmur has been a great thing for art, artists and Oakland. It brings tons of people to the area and supports restaurants, stores, as well as galleries. People who are complaining about it sound like a bunch of kids complaining that it's not just them and their friends. Cool people sometimes put their kids in strollers, y'know.

Joan Wess, Oakland

RPS Loses Respect

I went to Art Murmur for the first time in four years yesterday. I was really impressed that it had become something so diverse and inclusive, and the idea that "people who are interested in anything substantial, they're not going to feel comfortable in that atmosphere" is the snottiest thing I've heard in a while. The idea that this had become too "white and hipsterish," and that it should be replaced with a bike-themed event designed for people who will spend serious money, reads like an over-thought bad joke. The last time I had gone to Art Murmur, it was a bunch of white college kids, and what I saw last night was representative of Oakland. Rock Paper Scissors loses all of my respect here. They should be ashamed.

Chris Cond, Oakland

[illegible] Trump, Seven Days 5.4

Obama's Sins

It was no surprise to see the *Express* join the knee-jerk chorus of titterers who had to keep from wetting themselves when stand-up comic Barack Obama compared his work to the TV performance of Donald Trump, and "the kind of decisions that keep [him] up at night."

In the interest of deep journalism, it would be worth reporting that President Obama has not been kept awake by his decisions to:

Forbid thirteen countries from coming in to clean the poisonous goo from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Travel to Copenhagen to try to get the Olympics held on real estate owned by his crony, Valerie Jarrett.

Stick taxpayers with an $11 billion tab for his unconstitutional takeover of General Motors.

Violate the Constitution by anointing "czars" to usurp the powers of Congress.

Add $2.65 *trillion* to our national debt.

Issue an executive order compelling would-be contractors to disclose their political contributions, flouting the spirit if not the letter of the US Supreme Court ruling, in *NAACP v Alabama*, that forbade governments from requiring the disclosure of contributors to a political cause.

Given the condition of left-wing media, it doesn't seem there's a lot of staying awake going on.

David Altschul, Berkeley

Bin Laden Dead for Years

The "Obama got Osama" road show is as authentic as Obama's birth certificate.

Dr. Steve R. Pieczenik, a former deputy assistant secretary of state and consultant for the Department of Defense, told the *Alex Jones Show* on May 3 that Osama bin Laden died in 2001, and that he was prepared to testify in front of a grand jury how a top general told him directly that 9/11 was a false flag inside job.

Also, back in April 2002, over nine years ago, Pieczenik told the *Alex Jones Show* that bin Laden had already been "dead for months," and that the government was waiting for the most politically expedient time to roll out his corpse.

See: http://www.prisonplanet.com/top-us-government-insider-bin-laden-died-in-2001-911-a-false-flag.html

Russell Stepanchak, Columbus, Penn.

[illegible]

Grateful Words

Thank you for taking the time to review our documentary *These Amazing Shadows*. We appreciate your well written and fair review. Really like your turn of phrase "[*These Amazing Shadows*] has more on its mind than just showing off the riches of America's cinematic heritage."

Kurt Norton
Gravitas Docufilms
Oakland

Lame Ending

Well, I saw [*Meek's Cutoff*] at Sundance this year. Particularly based on the non-ending, I walked out and declared: "So Sundance." At first, the trek seemed almost fake because it was very personal and thus close. However, as the trek continues, the daily grind starts to envelope you in the experience. Months later, I still wish for a real ending, which might appeal to a few more movie-goers... no?

Debby Richman, Midway, Utah

Re: [illegible] Ten Seth 5.4

Close Sweet Jimmie's

Sweet Jimmie's has been closed at least twice for exactly this type of incident. How do they keep getting re-permitted? They always argue that the incident happens outside, so of course it's not their fault. I say if you cater to thugs, this will happen. They should be closed permanently and the ex-alder-cretin in the city administrator job should be removed from such a sensitive position. We need to be helping clean up the situation, not creating more work for the cops, more bad image for our city, and the senseless deaths of more and more and more young people.

Jerry West, Oakland

[illegible]

More Luv for Luvplanet

Luvplanet is one of the most original, talented, and (as you so perfectly illustrated in your review) underrated bands playing in the Bay Area today. They are the true heirs to the lost thread of San Francisco sound pioneered by Jefferson Airplane and the Grateful Dead and later evolved by local bands like (shriek!) Journey (and, like the Dead, their studio recordings do not provide a complete picture of the magic woven in the segue jams that spontaneously occur between songs). Luvplanet integrates diverse influences from the 1960s onward into something new with a positive vibe and must-be-seen-live-to-be-fully-appreciated energy. Based on your assessment of the lyrics and the riffs, I can't believe that you actually listened to the CD all the way through. Re: banishing Nicole to the folk realm, do you have a problem with strong women who rock? Because that is exactly what Nicole does on stage without a twang in sight (see "Virtual Life" from their last SF show at The Showroom — http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBby50mNKF8). Thanks for reviewing Luvplanet but please check them out live or give the CD another spin.

Kevin McGee, Pacifica

[illegible] Eco Watch 4.2

Salt the Pigs

Not that this aids the oaks, but maybe the wild pigs that are so destructive should be hunted, salted, hung, and then sold as Cali-fornia's answer to *jamon iberico*. It's free-range fed on chanterelles (instead of acorns), but I'm sure it imparts a characteristic terroir) and could be a contender in the fine foods market.

Beatrice Ulrich, Redwood City

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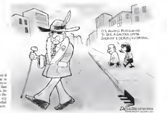
By Robert Gammon



IT'S ALWAYS REASSURING TO SEE A CONTRA COSTA SHERIFF'S DEPUTY ON PATROL
DeFREITAS EAST BAY EXPRESS

It's not even half over, but 2011 looks as if it might be the Year of the Corrupt Cop in the Bay Area. The only question right now is whether Contra Costa County or San Francisco has the dirtier police officers. As of late last week, CoCo County had taken the edge with the disclosure that two of its top commanders had allegedly operated a brothel in Pleasant Hill and regularly ripped off prostitutes and other whorehouses.

Indeed, it's been one jaw-dropping revelation after another so far this year in CoCo County. First, there was the news that the head of the county's **Narcotics Enforcement Team, Norman Wielsch**, had allegedly been selling drugs with the help of his longtime buddy, **Christopher Butler**, a private investigator. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported late last week that Butler told investigators that Wielsch coerced him into the drug-dealing scheme in exchange for police intel on people he was investigating.

Then came the news that Butler, a former Antioch cop, had run a "dirty DUI" scam with a CoCo County sheriff's deputy in San Ramon. In an attempt to help wives win their divorce and child-custody cases, Butler would hire attractive women to entice the targeted husbands into getting drunk and then Sheriff's Deputy **Stephen Tanabe** would arrest the men outside the bar not long after they got into their cars. If that scenario sounds vaguely familiar, it's because it is. Four years ago, the *Express* ran a cover story on Butler and his use of beautiful decoys to nab cheating husbands (see "The Honeytrappers," 3/7/2007).

But none of those revelations compared to last week's news about the Pleasant Hill brothel. According to the *Chronicle*, Butler confessed to police that he, Wielsch, and a San Ramon cop allegedly opened a massage parlor in Pleasant Hill that was a front for a whorehouse. Butler also said that Wielsch had allegedly engineered at least five robberies of other brothels, stealing the prostitutes' cash. Wielsch's lawyer told the paper that his client denies the allegations. The brothel closed last year when it didn't rake in as much money as the cops had hoped.

Across the bay, meanwhile, the FBI is conducting a wide-ranging corruption probe of the **San Francisco Police Department**. It began earlier this year with the revelations that SFPD had been conducting raids without search warrants. The cops claimed they had warrants, but surveillance video showed the officers raiding rooms at residential hotels using master keys. Apparently the cops were too dumb to realize they were on camera. Either that or they were just brazen.

The department's undercover team members also were captured on video raiding a residential hotel room without showing their badges. Prosecutors were forced to drop nearly one hundred criminal cases involving the unit and the department suspended its operations.

And then last week, the *Chron* reported that another surveillance video showed a San Francisco cop, **Richard Guerrero**, in a suspect's home taking a duffel bag that allegedly contained an iPod, a bottle of Tequila, two pounds of coffee, and caps and T-shirts. The cop never booked the duffel bag into evidence and the items were never recovered, even though charges against the suspect were dropped.

State Parks to Close

When **Jerry Brown** won the election last fall, environmentalists hoped that the yearly threat of state park closures would finally end. After all, Brown is a Democrat who views himself as being pro-environment. But last week, the worst fears of park lovers came true when Brown's administration announced that it would close seventy state parks in 2012 because of California's fiscal nightmare. If the closures happen, Brown will become the first governor in state history to shutter state parks.

Worse yet, Brown's team noted that the park closures had nothing to do with Republican efforts to block his plan to put tax measures on the ballot. Instead, the impending closures were the result of $14 billion in cuts that Democrats made in March. In other words, it looks as if nothing is going to save the parks from being closed. In fact, Brown's administration noted that even more parks might be shuttered if his tax measures don't go through.

The list of closures is depressing. In the Bay Area, such gems as **Samuel P. Taylor State Park** and **Tomales Bay State Park** in Marin County are to be closed, as is Northern California's largest state park, **Henry Coe**. And even if your favorite park isn't on the closure list, it likely will still suffer cutbacks in service and maintenance, Brown said.

Skinner's Tax-the-Rich Bill

A statewide poll showed last month that a large majority of California voters favor a tax hike on the rich to help save public education from devastating cuts. Even Republican voters liked the idea. But Governor Brown and top Democratic legislators have so far resisted such a proposal. Are they afraid of angering deep-pocketed donors? Perhaps. But **Nancy Skinner** apparently isn't. The Berkeley assemblywoman is pushing a bill that would tack on a 1 percent additional tax on income above $500,000. Skinner estimates her proposal will raise $2.3 billion in revenues each year.

Democratic state senate leader **Darrell Steinberg**, meanwhile, is threatening to pass a bill that would allow counties and school districts to raise numerous taxes on their own. Steinberg said he'll move forward with his bill if Republicans continue to block the governor's tax measures. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that the bill, which passed out of committee last week, would let counties and school districts ask local voters to raise income taxes, increase the vehicle license fee, and boost levies on liquor, tobacco, and soft drinks. They can even levy fees on oil companies. The bill only requires a majority vote of the legislature, so it can pass without Republican support. No wonder business groups were suddenly pressuring lawmakers last week to strike a budget deal.

Three-Dot Roundup

President **Barack Obama**'s job approval rating soared to 60 percent in the wake of **Osama bin Laden**'s death, according to an Associated Press poll. ... Onetime Republican presidential frontrunner/birther **Donald Trump** dropped out of the 2012 race. ... The Brown administration has effectively abandoned plans for a peripheral canal around the delta, and the governor gave up on his proposal to kill enterprise tax zones. ... The **California State University** system is considering another 30 percent tuition hike because of dire budget cutbacks. ... And the **AC Transit** board voted to raise bus fares to $2.10. ●

Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510

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POT PENALTIES MAY BE RELAXED

A new bill in Sacramento would allow prosecutors to charge growers and trimmers with a misdemeanor instead of a felony that mandates prison time

By David Downs

This month, thousands of California's pot growers are tending to their gardens, hoeing dirt, planting clones, and running irrigation for another billion-dollar outdoor cannabis crop. Yet come fall, hundreds of them will reap not the sticky icky, but a whirlwind of pain in the form of arrest and jail. Smoking marijuana may be more fashionable than ever in the Golden State, but cultivation penalties haven't changed since the height of the drug war thirty years ago.

Seeds of change are starting to germinate though, in the form of a bill to alter the penalties for cannabis cultivation. Sponsored by San Francisco Assemblyman **Tom Ammiano**, **AB 1017** aims to give prosecutors more discretion in how they charge weed growers and processors, called "trimmers."

According to the bill's author, Mendocino County District Attorney **C. David Eyster**, mom-and-pop trimmers — many of them economically desperate victims of the country's recession — currently face a felony punishable by sixteen months, or two or three years in prison for manicuring buds. That's because existing law "requires that every person who plants, cultivates, harvests, dries, or processes any marijuana or any part thereof, except as otherwise provided by law, be punished by imprisonment in the state prison."

AB 1017, by contrast, would make pot cultivation a "wobbler," allowing prosecutors to charge growers and trimmers with a misdemeanor punishable by probation up to one year in county jail. Ammiano stated that AB 1017 more properly aligns the punishment to the crime. As of this year, possessing up to one ounce of pot results in an infraction and $100 fine, but growing that same ounce of pot is treated as a felony.

Eyster wrote in a letter to the state assembly that the bill gives prosecutors more options, allowing them "to adjust charges to the magnitude of the case, rather than a one-size-fits-all felony." He stated that he sees a lot of trimmer cases in Northern California's premiere pot growing region. "These are the down-and-out, unemployed people located throughout the country in need of income in a sour economy with no prior criminal record who are arrested sitting around a table earning money by trimming marijuana buds."

Charging trimmers with a mandatory felony makes no sense, he wrote. "To some, they are field workers who are being used and victimized by the people who set up large-scale operations from a distance and who then reap the financial benefits if the business finishes the grow year without law enforcement detection."

AB 1017 passed the **Assembly Public Safety** committee on May 3 and goes to the assembly's Appropriations committee this week. If AB 1017 passes Appropriations, it'll get a full assembly floor vote and then a hearing in the senate.

Opponents of the bill include the **California District Attorneys Association**, the **California Police Chiefs Association**, and the **California Narcotics Officers' Association**. The narcotics officers contend that AB 1017 will boost organized crime. "Legislation, such as AB 1017 that reduces the penalties for marijuana cultivation, amounts to an improvement in [organized crime's] business climate and could only cause a continued increase in the influx of organized criminal enterprises into the marijuana cultivation business," the association stated in a letter to the assembly.

But Eyster argued that AB 1017 does not help gangsters, it actually gives prosecutors more discretion to focus on the big fish. "Marijuana cultivation statutes do not discriminate between major cultivation operations and illegal personal backyard gardens," he wrote. "The DA should be given the discretion to characterize the different attributes of specific cultivation/processing cases and charge the larger operations as felonious conduct and the smaller gardens as misdemeanors."

According to the **California Public Defenders Association**, AB 1017 lets DAs "persecute small growers, but not inflict upon them the lifelong burden of a felony conviction. This bill simply makes sense in today's world."

On May 11, the Assembly Appropriations committee concluded in an analysis of AB 1017 that although its fiscal effects would be unknown, it could generate "potentially moderate" annual savings to the state. In 2009 and 2010, a total of 260 people were put in state prison on pot cultivation charges, the committee analysis concluded. "If this number was decreased by 25 percent, annual state savings would be in the range of $1.5 million."

Jeffrey Miron, senior fellow at the libertarian **Cato Institute**, estimates that California — a state with a $10 billion budget deficit — continues to spend about $1 billion per year on ineffective marijuana prohibition.

Despite that heavy toll, legislators are likely to focus on how AB 1017 creates a dreaded state-mandated local program because it may result in people being sent to county jail rather than state prison for cultivation offenses. Any bills with new local costs are getting a cool reception in the capital, Ammiano's spokesman **Quintin Mecke** told Legalization Nation.

Representatives need to hear about the necessity of AB 1017 from their constituents, especially dispensary owners, patients, and growers. Patients with a valid doctor's recommendation for marijuana have an affirmative defense against prosecution for growing or possessing pot. But that doesn't stop zealous sheriff's deputies and police from arresting medical growers and trimmers. "Prosecutors need options when these cases come up," Mecke said. "This is cultivation and at the end of the day it crosses every aspect of marijuana, and in particular medical marijuana," he said.

Seeds & Stems

The City of San Jose received $290,000 in medical pot sales tax revenue in March, and city leaders face a $115 million budget deficit next year, and yet they plan to shut down lawfully operating clubs. ●

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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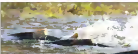

San Joaquin Valley irrigation districts want to block this year's Chinook salmon fishing season.

ECO WATCH

THE SALMON AND WATER WAR

Some salmon fishermen contend that Big Ag is trying to put them out of business in order to get more water.

By Alastair Bland

San Joaquin Valley irrigation districts, who filed a lawsuit this month to stop California's commercial salmon fishing season just five days after it began, say they're worried that fishing will harm the state's salmon populations, which have been struggling for several years. But the main motive behind the suit filed on May 5 against the federal government is not about the health of salmon runs; it's about water.

The suit contends that if numbers of **Chinook**, or king, salmon abruptly drop, federal regulators could react by curtailing farmers' access to Sacramento River water, which the fish require for spawning. Already, the irrigation districts say, the spring run of Chinook salmon is listed as threatened. "And if the run gets listed [as endangered], then we'll have to give up more water," said **Allen Short**, coordinator of the **San Joaquin River Group Authority**, the alliance of 22 water management agencies pressing the lawsuit. The irrigation districts supply water to the state's major agribusinesses in the southern Central Valley.

Some fishermen suspect that the irrigation districts' true aim is to eliminate the California salmon fishing industry in order to protect their water allotments. "We're a thorn in their side, and as long as we're around, the water guys will want us gone," said Berkeley commercial fisherman **Mike Hudson**.

Victor Gonella, president of the **Golden Gate Salmon Association**, also wonders if California's agriculture industry is pushing a campaign to rid the state of fishermen. "Because if the commercial salmon fishery collapses," he noted, "then it opens more latitude for them [the irrigation districts] to pump more water."

Zeke Grader, executive director of the **Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations**, said that the real culprit in the decline of salmon are the delta pumps that send water to the San Joaquin Valley irrigation districts — not California's fishing industry. "If they really are concerned about protecting fish," he said, the irrigation districts "should look at the state and federal pumps in the delta and those that receive water from them."

Chinook salmon numbers began to plummet about five years ago after water pumping rates in the **Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta** hit all-time record highs between 2003 and 2006. After a record spawning run in 2002 of almost 800,000 fish, the fall run of Chinook salmon crashed, and in 2009 bottomed out at 39,000, the lowest return ever recorded.

National Marine Fisheries Service research biologist **Michael O'Farrell** said that overfishing of salmon did not cause the crash and has rarely, if ever, been a problem. Rather, experts generally blame the collapse of the Chinook salmon on the poor condition of the delta, where pollution, nonnative predators, and — especially — water diversions via two large pumps in the southern delta have created a hostile environment for many fishes.

New salmon numbers seem to be on the rebound. Last fall's return of spawning adults to the Sacramento River was up fourfold from 2009's low, and the number of salmon in ocean waters is believed to be nearly one million. Hudson contends that environmental regulations that began restricting water pumping from the delta in 2009 to protect endangered fishes, high rainfall, and improved salmon hatchery programs are to thank for the turnaround.

Short and the irrigation districts, however, argue that the salmon are back due in part to fishing season closures in 2008 and 2009 and a partial closure last year. "After banning fishing," he said, "we saw a return in the salmon population like we haven't seen in years."

Short wants to see fishing closed for at least another season — a move Hudson said would be not only unnecessary but economically devastating. "Everybody in the [salmon fishing] fleet is flat broke now after three years of no fishing," he said, adding that many have borrowed money to maintain or repair their boats and are now banking on a profitable salmon season. "If this season got shut down now, it would be a hit that a lot of guys couldn't recover from."

Although wild salmon remain in the Sacramento River ecosystem, those of the San Joaquin went extinct six decades ago. According to **Peter Moyle**, a UC Davis fishery biologist, the San Joaquin once boasted a half million spawning fish a year. But the construction of the **Friant Dam** in the 1940s, which sent 95 percent of the river's water to fields and orchards to the south and west, completely eradicated the fish.

Today, the San Joaquin River system's salmon populations consist of just several hundred to several thousand spawning fish that return each year to the river's three lower tributaries — the Stanislaus, the Tuolumne, and Merced rivers. For six decades, the main branch of the San Joaquin has borne no salmon at all.

But that is scheduled to change. In the 1990s, legal skirmishes between conservationists and water users resulted in focused efforts to restore the San Joaquin's lost salmon runs. A 2004 court settlement even determined that operation of the Friant Dam violates the state's Fish and Game Code, which states that "[t]he owner of any dam shall allow sufficient water to pass over, around or through the dam, to keep in good condition any fish that may be planted or exist below the dam."

Moyle said that fertilized eggs from Sacramento salmon will soon be planted in the San Joaquin with the hope of seeding a new population — but certain conditions will be required to assure that these salmon can spawn and their progeny live. To this end, the **San Joaquin River Agreement**, enacted in 1999, mandates that the region's water districts maintain minimum river flow rates to facilitate the return of spawning fish, which Moyle says could someday number, at best, five to ten thousand.

Short says his group of water agencies is doing its best to bring back the salmon — but the commercial salmon season, which opened May 1, is not helping. "We're required to increase spawning returns and increase the salmon population, but we can't increase fish numbers if our salmon go out to sea and can't get back again," Short argued.

Zeke Grader, however, calls the contentions of the irrigation districts "audacious." He said that the water agencies now suing the government have been protected by senior water rights from recently imposed restrictions on delta water pumping. "There has been no cooperative effort on their part to restore the runs," Grader said. "They've been brought along kicking and screaming. They haven't sacrificed any water, and they caused the declines" in salmon numbers.

Dick Pool, president of the Concord-based conservation group **Water4Fish**, is mystified by the suit, which names the US Commerce Department and the National Marine Fisheries Service as defendants. Like Grader, Pool observes that the water agencies now suing the government are well buffered from imminent harm from water pumping restrictions. "It just looks like they're suing out of spite," he said.

But Short vouched for the logic behind the lawsuit. He noted in an e-mail that the state and federal agencies "authorizing significant commercial salmon harvest this year ... are the same agencies that caused a shutdown of the pumps in the delta to, in part, protect spring and winter-run salmon." He says that the affected pumps transport domestic water to 25 million Californians and that "shutting down the pumps at certain times of the year to minimize fish mortality has had heavy economic impacts in farming communities."

However, Pool warns that closing fishing seasons won't restore salmon runs. For salmon populations to return, he said, more water must be allowed to flow down the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers. If the flows are inadequate, then the Endangered Species Act will kick in, he said, affecting farmers and fishermen alike. "The way I see it, if the salmon get listed [as endangered], we're all in deep trouble." ●

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Jeff Humphrey (far right) and his son Jack (next to him) round up used baseball gear for kids in need

BASEBALL'S ROBIN HOOD

The number of inner-city black youth who play baseball has declined rapidly, but Jeff Humphrey is helping keep dreams alive in the urban East Bay

By Paul Gackle

Roscoe Bryant founded the **Oakland Royals**, a kids' baseball team in West Oakland's Ghost Town neighborhood, after a fifteen-year-old boy was killed by gunfire in his front yard. Bent on getting neighborhood kids off the street, Bryant quickly rounded up enough boys to field a team, but then ran into a logistical problem: Baseball is expensive. Unlike other sports that require nothing more than a ball and a buddy to play, baseball teams need a laundry list of pricey gear — bats, cleats, helmets, gloves, and catchers' equipment. Bryant scraped together what he could by scouring local Salvation Army and Goodwill stores; the team played its first games with only six gloves. "We just hoped it didn't get hit to the outfield," Bryant said.

But now, seven years later, the Royals are fielding five teams with 75 kids ranging from five-year-old tee-ballers to 15-year-old budding stars. The program's growth is a reflection of Bryant's commitment, but he insists that it would be nearly impossible if he weren't receiving hundreds of dollars of used equipment from a Robin Hood-type figure in the East Bay baseball community — **Jeff Humphrey**. "Eighty to ninety percent of the equipment we have comes through Jeff," Bryant said. "Without him, we don't play ball. I might be able to field one team."

The considerable cost of fielding a baseball team is one reason why so many young urban athletes have turned to other sports. Of course, there are myriad other reasons for this trend — the rise of basketball and football as major TV sports, the constant motion and instant gratification of those games, a lack of recruiting by college baseball, and a big league scouting shift from inner cities to Latin America. But the combination of costs and these other factors has resulted in a sharp decline in the number of inner-city youth — especially African Americans — playing baseball at every level.

It shows up in the big leagues, too. This season, only 8.5 percent of major-league ballplayers on opening day rosters were black, down from a high of 27 percent in 1975. Even here in the East Bay, which has one of the country's richest traditions of producing African American talent — Hall of Famers like **Frank Robinson**, **Willie Stargell**, **Joe Morgan**, and **Rickey Henderson**, to name a few — the number of kids signing up to play youth ball in Oakland, San Pablo, and Richmond has dropped by the hundreds since the mid-Eighties.

The cost of playing baseball is an enormous obstacle for parents and coaches in economically deprived neighborhoods like Ghost Town. That's why former Cal batting coach **Oscar Miller** started collecting used gear from kids who attended his instructional clinics six years ago. "It all started with Oscar Miller's dream to get gear back to West Oakland where he grew up," said Humphrey.

On a day in 2005, Humphrey was driving his eleven-year-old son Jack to Miller's summer camp with a friend who was carrying two extra pairs of cleats. That's when Humphrey learned about Miller's desire to round up used gear for kids in West Oakland. As someone who'd coached more than twenty youth teams in Oakland, Piedmont, and Walnut Creek, Humphrey figured he'd make a couple of calls, send out a few e-mails, see if he could help.

One of the people Humphrey contacted was **Tom Leserman**, softball commissioner of the **Lafayette/Moraga Youth Association**, and it just so happened that the organization was about to discontinue its baseball program for kids older than ten years of age. "We had all this surplus equipment just sitting in our shed," Leserman said. So he loaded up Humphrey's truck with twelve-dozen sets of unused catchers' gear, bats, gloves, uniforms, and equipment bags. "He put so much gear in my trunk, I had to immediately go to Orchard Hardware to buy 150 feet of rope just to tie it in," Humphrey recalled.

Soon, more gear started piling in from leagues across the East Bay — Albany, Alameda, Oakland, Piedmont, and Walnut Creek. In just a few weeks, Humphrey rounded up seven truckloads of equipment, including more than three hundred bats, three hundred sets of cleats, numerous helmets and gloves — anything a young ballplayer could possibly need. "Jeff e-mailed me to see if we were interested," said **Ron Matthews**, president of **Alameda Little League**. "I said, 'Hell yes.' We were already recycling this stuff, but this was a more organized concept."

They laid the gear out in Miller's backyard and invited about fifty West Oakland kids over to grab whatever they wanted. It was almost too easy, and Humphrey continued a trend. Most of the leagues had so much equipment he couldn't take it off their hands fast enough. "The common phrase was, 'Bring a truck,'" he said.

Then it clicked: How many other leagues are just stuffing their gear into sheds? Humphrey and his son scratched up a "hokey" flier and passed it around the baseball community. He didn't give the drive a name or a catchy slogan. Instead, he relayed a simple message: "Tell a friend."

It didn't take long before gear starting pouring in from all over the place. Teams and little leagues in El Cerrito, Livermore, Burlingame, Hillsborough, and Marin County started giving away their used stuff. Berkeley High, Northgate, Bishop O'Dowd, and Head-Royce donated equipment for teenagers. **Total Sports** in Dublin offered up 1,300 pairs of pants that outfitted five teams. **Triple Play Batting Cages** in San Leandro gave away used bats. Oakland A's radio announcer **Ron Korach** provided several boxes of baseballs, and **Mizuno USA** supplied 125 pairs of brand-new cleats. Humphrey's boss, **Ken Nitzberg** at Devon Self Storage in Oakland, even wrote a check for $500 so that Roscoe Bryant could build a batting cage in his backyard. "It's the centerpiece of the neighborhood," Bryant said proudly. "It gives the kids something to do when we're not playing."

Meanwhile, many leagues, like Alameda, Albany, and Burlingame, started holding gear collection drives so that parents could donate outgrown equipment rather than shoving it in a box. "Jeff makes it easy for us," said **Jack Miller**, president of **Albany Little League**, whom Humphrey calls "the backbone of the whole thing." "People want to do the right thing, but the easier you make it for them, the more likely it's going to get done."

Humphrey's son Jack, now a teenager, accompanies him on almost every run; many in the baseball community refer to them as the 'Bin Truck Boys.' "I know how cool it is to get a new baseball bat," Jack Humphrey said. "To see their eyes light up — they're on top of the world."

In six years, Humphrey has delivered 24 truckloads of gear to 1,000 kids playing for about forty teams in West Oakland, San Pablo, Richmond, Vallejo, Rodeo, and East Palo Alto. "Jeff gives us anything we need," said **Bob Forman**, president of the **San Pablo Baseball Association**.

Like Bryant in Oakland, Forman's biggest challenge is financing everything a healthy baseball league requires: $300 per bat, $100 per glove, $35 per helmet, $150 for catchers' gear, $50 for cleats, $22.50 for a box of baseballs, and that doesn't include uniforms, equipment bags, chalk, umpires' fees, and field maintenance. In a suburban league like San Ramon Valley, registration fees run up to $350 to cover these expenses, but most parents in San Pablo and Richmond can't fork over that kind of money. "A lot of families in our area don't have the funds for their kids to play, so I have to say, 'Okay, just give me $10 or $20,'" Forman said. He estimates that Humphrey's gear saves him $700 to $800 annually, not to mention the countless hours he'd have to spend hustling to make ends meet. But other benefits are immeasurable: In a child's eyes, every piece of equipment is a gift. Forman lets his players take their bats, gloves, and catchers' gear home so they can practice with it and make something they treasure. "Kids feel special when they have their own stuff. A lot of these kids have never even had a glove," Forman said. "Jeff's a hero in my book."

But the modest Humphrey doesn't think his role should be blown out of proportion; he views himself as a middleman. The real heroics, he says, are performed by guys like Forman and Bryant, who devote themselves to giving kids a better chance in life. "I'm just a conduit between the people who have used gear they don't want to throw away and the kids who need it to play baseball," Humphrey said.

He said his motivation isn't about increasing the number of African Americans in Major League baseball. His goals are more modest, yet more meaningful. He thinks sports can boost a kid's self-esteem while instilling values of teamwork, sportsmanship, and perseverance. Humphrey also wants to spread the joy of playing a kid's game. "You're only young once," he said. "It's really about giving more kids a chance to have memories of playing the great game of baseball." ●

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"KIDS FEEL SPECIAL WHEN THEY HAVE THEIR OWN STUFF; A LOT OF THESE KIDS HAVE NEVER EVEN HAD A GLOVE," SAID BOB FORMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE SAN PABLO BASEBALL ASSOCIATION. "JEFF'S A HERO IN MY BOOK."

Many in Richmond credit City Manager Bill Lindsay for the city's financial rebirth. Sanya Revel

The Man Behind Richmond's Renaissance

Crime is down, business is up and the city is avoiding major budget cuts thanks to Bill Lindsay, perhaps the Bay Area's best city manager

By John Geluardi

Early each morning on Richmond's waterfront, just a few hundred feet from where thousands of men and women once feverishly assembled Navy ships, military jeeps, and half track tanks during World War II, a new type of assembly line busily produces fresh, gourmet desserts.

Galaxy Desserts has been touted as one of the fastest growing businesses in the Bay Area. Its two hundred production workers steadily handcraft delectable crèmes, tarts, cheesecakes, mousse cakes, and the company's most celebrated item — the three-ounce French croissant, which has so much morning goodness in its fluffy folds that **Oprah Winfrey** has featured it five times on her favorite things list. The Oprah exposure brought such an onslaught of new orders (the company now makes upwards of 75,000 croissants a day) that Galaxy needed a larger kitchen. So the company moved from its San Rafael facility in 2005 to Richmond where it found an ideal geographical location, competitive leasing rates, and enterprise zone tax incentives.

"I don't think any business looks forward to navigating city departments, but the City of Richmond has been more than functional. If I have a question, I know who to call to get it answered right away," said Galaxy CEO **Paul Levitan**. "We're entrepreneurs so we keep thinking about growing, and right now that would involve growing in Richmond."

While it's enjoying phenomenal success, Galaxy is just one element of Richmond's newfound renaissance. It's a startling turnaround for the hardscrabble city. For the past six decades, the mere mention of Richmond has conjured an image of the massive **Chevron** oil refinery looming over a bleak industrial landscape and violence-ridden neighborhoods where the heartbreak of each homicide bled freely into the next. But over the past six years there has been a profound change. A new spirit in city government has helped transform industry, the quality of life in the city, and Richmond's grim reputation. The city has undergone a facelift, citizens are attending community meetings and events in unprecedented numbers, and new businesses — many of them green — are bringing economic opportunities back to town.

While other cities are desperately contending with debilitating budget deficits and struggling to maintain public safety and other basic services, Richmond has produced balanced budgets and enjoys a full complement of police officers. The combined efforts of city departments and community members have resulted in meaningful reductions in violent crime. And the city has completed numerous civic and neighborhood revitalization projects that have given Richmond a new air of vitality and community health.

There are many reasons for Richmond's rebirth, but there's widespread agreement in the city that much of the credit goes to the leadership of City Manager **Bill Lindsay**, who took over as the city's top administrator in 2005. "You have to acknowledge Bill Lindsay's role; he has brought a lot of integrity to Richmond," said **John Gioia**, who represents Richmond on the **Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors**. "The culture of any organization originates at the top. If the leadership is one of integrity and hard work, that message flows through the rest of the city departments. And that's filtered out to the business community. Now the reputation of Richmond is that Bill Lindsay has brought integrity to the process and businesses have confidence that they will get a fair hearing."

Richmond's new reputation has been paying off. Not only have dozens of new businesses like Galaxy come to town in the past six years, but the city has negotiated lucrative contracts at its port. The city recently signed long-term deals with **Honda** and **Subaru** to offload car carrier ships at the city's port, which will bring in close to $90 million in revenue over the next fifteen years.

And there could be another rosy spot on the city's financial horizon. Richmond is a finalist in the competition to host the second **Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory** campus. The two-million-square-foot project would create hundreds of high-quality jobs and draw dozens of new lab-associated businesses to the city. Richmond is considered a strong contender because of its proximity to the UC Berkeley campus and because the university already owns a ninety-acre plot of land on the city's waterfront. The lab is expected to make its decision by November.

As for Lindsay, he takes a hands-on role in bringing new business to Richmond and in some cases has been the deciding factor, said Redevelopment Executive Director **Steve Duran**. "When we need to show a prospective business that they are important to the city, Bill always makes himself available to meet with the owners to let them know that Richmond is open to growth and if they have any problems he's available," Duran said. "And people do go to him directly. He has such an open-door policy; I don't know how he has time to do anything."

Lindsay was born and raised in Walnut Creek, where he still lives with his wife Meg. They have two children: a son, Ian, who is in college, and a daughter, Sarah, who, after graduating, followed her father into public service and is currently working for AmeriCorps.

At 55, Lindsay still has a boyish look, though he has some gray showing in his otherwise thick hair. His sincere manner belies a quick wit that is often self-deprecating and has been a valuable asset at city functions. He earned his undergraduate degree from Yale and an MBA from UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business. After graduating he committed himself to public service, and before coming to Richmond, he was the city manager of Orinda, a leafy, well-heeled suburb whose kinship to Richmond is at best paradoxical.

But Lindsay has not only managed a steep learning curve; he has kept the city on a sustained course of community and financial recovery and helped make Richmond one of the most remarkable stories in the Bay Area. During a recent interview in his office at the newly renovated city hall, Lindsay was modest about his role in Richmond's turnaround. "A lot of it is just not screwing up," he said.

Despite the fact that Richmond has been producing balanced budgets and maintaining upper-tier bond ratings while sitting atop $10 million in reserves, Lindsay is only modestly optimistic about the city's financial health. He pointed out that property tax revenue has taken a 30 percent hit — the worst in Contra Costa County — and sales tax income dropped 12 percent. The city is facing a deficit next year in its $120 million general fund, but it's relatively small — $5 million. Lindsay added that a 2012 ballot measure to increase sales tax is vital to the city's continued financial health.

He also grudgingly admitted that Richmond is doing well compared to other Bay Area cities and that the troubled city is experiencing a new sense of optimism for the first time in sixty years. "We have a strong credit rating, which is nice because five years ago we didn't have one at all," he said. "I can't say we're doing swimmingly, but I can say we are swimming effectively upstream. It's a bit like 'been down so long, it feels like up.'"

Modesty aside, Richmond has accomplished some impressive redevelopment projects thanks to its high bond ratings. More than two hundred city employees have now reoccupied the historic **Memorial Civic Center** after the ten-acre complex of three buildings and spacious quad underwent a $100 million seismic retrofit and remodel.

The city's downtown corridor also has undergone an extensive makeover and now boasts new sidewalks, crosswalks, lighting, and 130 new trees. **Nevin Park**, once the focal point of violence in Central Richmond, has had a $3.7 million facelift that includes a new, fenced-in playground, upgraded community center, and the installation of police surveillance cameras. The city also has contributed to the retrofitting and remodeling of important historic buildings such as the **Winters Building**, which houses the downtown **East Bay Center for the Performing Arts** and **The Plunge**, an 85-year-old warm water indoor swimming pool.

"And our roads," Lindsay added with a hint of pride. "Our roadways were once rated the worst in the Bay Area, and though there's still work to be done, they are much better."

Lindsay has enjoyed city council support on most issues since he took over the city's affairs a half-decade ago. The council was reduced from nine members to seven in 2008, which helped streamline the process of governing. And after the 2010 election, the council was further stabilized with a majority of progressives who endorse Lindsay's good government policies.

Lindsay rebuilt city government from the ground up following the colossal mismanagement of the previous city manager, **Isiah Turner**, who plunged the city into financial mess in 2003. Turner had been the mediocre director of the city's Employment and Training Department when fire department Captain **Darrell Reece**, a legendary behind-the-scenes power broker, political consultant, and union boss, essentially installed him as city manager in 1998.

Turner was born and raised in Richmond, which made him a popular choice despite his lack of experience and dodgy background. Several years earlier Turner had quit a government job in Washington state when an auditor discovered he misused $22,000 of taxpayer funds. Nonetheless, at Reece's insistence, a divided Richmond City Council voted to put Turner in charge of the city's bureaucracy. Once he took the helm, Turner set about hiring many of his friends and associates as department heads and doled out numerous no-bid city contracts for up to $10,000, many of which were said to have gone to his supporters.

"Isiah Turner used to play different council members off of each other," said longtime Councilman **Tom Butt**, who voted against hiring him. "He played political favorites and he had his buddies around town that he looked out for. It was a very unhealthy situation."

Turner's reign lasted until 2003 when he suddenly announced his resignation, citing doctor's orders. The city threw him a lavish retirement party in the 3,000-seat Memorial Convention Center. Then, shortly after he moved out of his office — and the state — it turned out that Turner had left behind a hidden $35 million budget deficit that was largely the result of fat contracts with the police and fire unions, according to a subsequent state audit.

The result was devastating. The city was forced to lay off hundreds of employees, libraries were closed, several community centers were shuttered, and services were drastically cut back. Contra Costa County's former administrator **Phil Batchelor** stepped in temporarily to run the city. Batchelor, a no-nonsense manager who is highly respected for his fiscal responsibility, performed emergency triage and was able to staunch the city's financial bleeding. But more importantly, he recommended Lindsay be brought in as permanent city manager.

There were several longtime council members, chief among them former Councilwoman **Maria Viramontes**, who publicly doubted whether Lindsay, the mild-mannered suburbanite, would be able to last in rough-and-tumble Richmond, with its chronic urban crime, complex network of industries, and ingrained political dysfunction. But Lindsay's accomplishments have been impressive, and last December the council renewed his contract for five more years at an annual salary of $271,000, which makes him one of the higher paid city managers in the Bay Area.

Lindsay made his mark by being remarkably adept at hiring new department heads, working with the city's unions, and establishing new administrative policies with an emphasis on governmental transparency. Under previous administrations, federal search warrants and FBI raids were about the only way the city would give up any embarrassing information. But under Lindsay, Richmond's government suddenly opened up as it never had before. When millions of gallons of Richmond's raw sewage overflowed the city's antiquated sewers in 2006, Lindsay stepped in front of a bank of news cameras and fully admitted the city's responsibility for polluting the bay. When a longtime government reporter at the *West County Times* requested all of the city's cell phone bills, he was amazed to receive all of the records within 48 hours.

Openness has now become part of the city's culture. Lindsay and the city attorney take any request for public information very seriously, and each one goes immediately into the queue. Transparency also has been a big factor in improving the flow of information between city departments. "Secrecy drags down an organization; it's pernicious and can pit one department against another," Lindsay explained. "Delivering the bad news can be rough at times, but you get more trust from the community and the council if you're open about the things that aren't so good."

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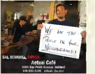
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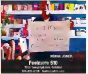

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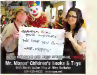
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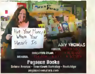
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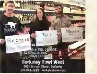
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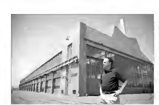


Developer Eddie Orton rehabilitated the Ford Assembly Plant into office and restaurant space. Sonya Revell

Lindsay also formed a good working relationship with city unions that had been decimated by layoffs in the financial crisis. He credited them with cooperating with administrators to help the city begin its recovery. The police union and other public-employee unions agreed to 8 percent pay cuts (the firefighter union refused to cooperate, forcing the city to impose cuts when negotiations failed). Union cooperation not only helped lift the city out of its financial morass, but also helped inoculate Richmond against the national fiscal crisis that began in 2007 and has laid waste to city and state budgets and pension funds across the country.

Lindsay, meanwhile, also assembled his own management team. One of his key hires was Financial Director **Jim Goins**, who engineered effective strategies for regaining the city's bond rating, achieving balanced budgets, establishing regular department audits, and ensuring overall fiscal responsibility. Lindsay also brought in Assistant City Manager and Human Resources Director **Leslie Knight**, who created both stability and accountability among city staff, and Employment and Training Director **Sal Vaca**, who has helped expand the city's job training programs to include the award-winning **RichmondBUILD**, which offers hands-on training for construction and solar installation.

Lindsay also promoted **Richard Mitchell** to planning director, which proved to be a valuable move. Mitchell was born and raised in Richmond and has a reputation for bringing high standards to his hometown. "Richard Mitchell won't accept low-quality projects," Lindsay said. "If they won't let them build it in San Ramon, Richard sees no reason why it should be built in Richmond."

But Lindsay didn't completely clean house. He retained some effective department heads, including Community Redevelopment Agency Executive Director **Steve Duran** and Redevelopment Director **Alan Wolken**, who have overseen the city's revitalization projects. Port Director **Jim Matzorkis** was a key factor in securing the Honda and Subaru contracts.

"Duran, Wolken, and Mitchell have done an incredible job; they're about getting things done," said **Eddie Orton**, owner of **Orton Development**, which refurbished the historic **Ford Assembly Plant** into a prime waterfront office and restaurant space. The sawtoothed building also boasts the **Craneway Pavilion**, a 45,000-square-foot event space with sweeping views of the San Francisco Bay. "But the lynchpin is Lindsay. He's the lynchpin for Richmond's success, there's no question about it."

Richmond's new stability has caught the attention of businesses that are now willing to invest in the city and take advantage of its industry-friendly infrastructure. Besides Galaxy Desserts, there are a number of new, small, thriving businesses in the city, including the **Artisan Kitchen and Cafe**, which recently moved into one of Richmond's "commercial condos" near the waterfront, and **Catahoula Coffee Company & Roastery**, which has created an unlikely cafe society on San Pablo Avenue. Richmond also had attracted big box stores — Walmart and Target, whose presence, while usually damaging to small retailers, shows that the city is now viewed as a place of economic opportunity.

But some of the most exciting businesses to come to town are green. According to the city, there are 65 certified green businesses in Richmond. Among them is **SunPower**, which leases space in the remodeled Ford building. Even Chevron, the city's largest greenhouse gas emitter, has gotten into the green mix with its Engineering and Technology Division, which employs one hundred renewable-energy researchers, making it the fourth largest green employer in the city. Councilman **Jeff Ritterman**, a heart surgeon who was elected to the council in 2008, has been one of the city's most enthusiastic promoters of Richmond's new green friendliness. "The real challenge for us is bringing more of these companies that can provide jobs in a meaningful way," he noted.

The financial rise of Richmond and its potential as a center of green industry also has given residents a new sense of independence from the traditional power-brokers in town — developers, public-safety unions, and heavy polluting industries. During the 2010 election cycle, Chevron spent about $1 million in an effort to defeat the city's Green Party mayor, **Gayle McLaughlin**, and to put candidates friendly to its agenda on the council. But McLaughlin retained her job and Chevron's three council picks lost to more progressive candidates. Voters clearly reaffirmed their desire for leadership not beholden to large industry.

The council and city residents also are exhibiting a new sense of Richmond's self-worth. The council, for example, recently voted down a longstanding proposal to build a $1.2 billion Indian gaming casino and resort at Point Molate, despite promises of new jobs and tax revenues. When the casino was first proposed six years ago, the city was in financial chaos, and the project appeared to be a done deal. But in 2010, 58 percent of Richmond voters said they no longer wanted it.

And so when the council finally nixed the proposal several weeks ago, it represented another clear sign that Richmond residents have a new image of their city and its future. In March, KQED's Forum aired a debate over the casino proposal. A woman who identified herself as a Richmond resident called in to challenge casino developer **Jim Levine**'s argument that the city desperately needed the jobs and tax revenues the casino would provide. "I want to tell the developer that Richmond is undergoing a renaissance; we have a progressive leadership, cutting-edge solar businesses, and new contracts at the port," she said. "Even though Richmond has been downtrodden in the past, the days of developers telling residents that 'beggars can't be choosers' are over!"

McLaughlin, who has been the city's foremost proponent of solar business and solar job training, echoed the caller's sentiment. "There's a new understanding that the community has a right to state what its wishes are," she said. "People in Richmond are not going to be spoon-fed. Now they are saying, 'We can do better.'"

From Lindsay's perspective, the city's renaissance is vitally linked to the health of its residential communities. With that in mind, he has required all city departments to shift any discussions of city services into a context of community health. "The effort is to restructure communication with community members and look for solutions for problems that can be easy to fix," Lindsay explained. "For example, if parents express concern that there is no safe walking route to the local elementary school, the city will make improvements, such as blight removal, lighting, repaving, landscaping, etc. — things relatively easy to achieve."

But Richmond's problems over the years have been much more serious than the need to make crosswalks safer. Indeed, the most critical public health problem facing the city has been its notoriously high violent-crime rate. So one of the most important decisions Lindsay has made as city manager is the selection of a new police chief. After a nationwide search, he chose **Chris Magnus**, a little-known chief from Fargo, North Dakota. At first, the pick was a head-scratcher. Magnus, after all, did not seem a likely candidate for chief in a city whose most prominent civic distinction was regularly ranking among the nation's top ten most violent cities. Perhaps the doubt stemmed from the fact that Magnus is white and gay, and much of his crime-fighting experience took place in a city where criminal ambition is largely suppressed by sub-zero temperatures and relentless snowstorms.

But Magnus turned out to be exactly what Richmond needed. Despite an entrenched department culture that was resistant to change, he has instituted a major reorganization of policies and procedures, including a series of long-term, community policing strategies. He broke the city into three geographic zones and redeployed officers into specific beats within those zones. The beat officers' familiarity with the neighborhoods they patrolled enabled them to more easily spot crime trends, from graffiti and public drinking to drug dealing and assaults. Magnus also required zone commanders to provide active community members with their cell phone numbers, which helped establish a bridge to neighborhoods that had long mistrusted city cops.

Magnus said it's unusual that a police chief has the opportunity to develop long-term plans to reduce crime, and it's even more unusual that they are allowed to commit to them. "People want immediate solutions to problems so it's not uncommon for cities to do crime management by press release, always coming up with a new program and constantly being in a reactive mode," Magnus said. "It was Bill who allowed me to make a longer-term investment in problem solving and that is very rare, to tell you the truth."

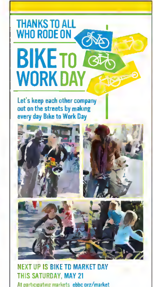
> "IT WAS BILL [LINDSAY] WHO ALLOWED ME TO MAKE A LONGER-TERM INVESTMENT IN PROBLEM SOLVING AND THAT IS VERY RARE, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH," SAID RICHMOND POLICE CHIEF CHRIS MAGNUS.

After four years of sticking with the community policing strategy, there is cautious hope that it is paying off. In 2009, Richmond had the second highest per capita homicide rate in the country with 47 killings. But in 2010, the number of homicides plummeted by more than 50 percent to 22. This encouraging statistic was accompanied by other encouraging trends, such as a 30 percent reduction in violent crimes overall.

Captain **Mark Gagan** is quick to point out the police department cannot take full credit for crime reduction. Gagan said almost as soon as Lindsay became city manager, he made it a requirement that crime reduction and public safety were to be the No. 1 priority of every city department. That directive has factored into library and after-school programs, graffiti abatement, code enforcement, redevelopment projects, and economic revitalization. Over the past four years there has been a coordinated and sustained effort on the part of multiple city departments to reduce crime, Gagan said. City programs like the Office of Neighborhood Safety, the Main Street Initiative, and Literacy for Every Adult Person have been major contributors to crime reduction. Gagan also commended the faith-based community for being a particularly important partner.

Gagan said redevelopment projects in central Richmond have restructured the environment. The upgrading of Nevin Park was critical, and the senior housing across the street was designed with windows that face out on the park, which has discouraged loitering, Gagan said. The neighborhood improvements have instilled a new pride in neighborhood residents. When police officers go to community safety meetings in central Richmond, there are regularly fifty people instead of fifteen, Gagan said.

"I remember what the streets used to be like," Gagan continued. "We would drive through 4th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One of Bill Lindsay's most important decisions was to hire Chris Magnus as police chief

Joseph Schell

and Nevin and there were 35 people loitering and drinking, there was a dice game, there was a fistfight, and that would result in a shooting. Just a few years ago, I was standing in the 300 block of 4th Street and within 120 feet there were six memorials for murder victims who had been killed within three months. It's simply not that way anymore."

Lindsay also subscribes to the notion of continually looking for formulas that make Richmond a better place to live and work. Every two years, for example, he commissions a survey of residents to find out what they think the city is doing right and what could be done better. Typically, wealthy suburban enclaves conduct such surveys as a way for local officials to give themselves a public pat on the back. But officials in cities with entrenched problems like Richmond actively avoid asking residents how they feel about local government because the answers can be damning.

For Lindsay, the survey is an effective way to gauge the city's job performance. After each survey is completed, the city manager holds mandatory meetings with the entire city staff to thank them for their successes and examine areas where they need improvement. "What's important to me is not how we compare to [another city]," Lindsay explained, "but whether we are improving every two years."

Councilman Butt, who is in his sixteenth year on the city council, has been a major promoter of the city's rich World War II history, its 4,400 acres of parks and open space, and its 32 miles of shoreline. He has also been the council's most consistent voice for the good-government practices that have now taken hold on the council. He said Richmond's recent progress has been rewarding, though there are still many challenges. But he admits he doesn't have as much angst over the city's problems as he used to and he finally sees the possibility of a better future.

"My dream for Richmond has always been to transform it from a place people avoid to a place where they say, 'Oh yeah, that's where all that shoreline is: Rosie the Riveter National Park, and restaurants. We're going to ride the Bay Trail through Miller/Knox Park and have lunch in Point Richmond,'" Butt said. "I think that's our destiny — if we can ever get there."

Yet despite Richmond's remarkable progress, its traditionally bad reputation has been difficult to overcome. Developers selling expensive new condos along the city's southern waterfront promote a host of amenities — easy commuting, restaurants, parks, sailing, biking, jogging, but they fail to mention that this prime location is in Richmond, calling the area instead "Marina Bay."

Recently the **Richmond Art Center** celebrated its 75th anniversary. The center has some of the best art classes in the Bay Area and has exhibited some of the best known contemporary artists of the 20th century, including Jasper Johns, Roy De Forest, and Richard Diebenkorn. *Peanuts* creator Charles Schulz once had an exhibition there. But the *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter who wrote about the celebration described the center as being surrounded by bail bonds businesses, fast-food joints, and a center for homeless youth. He also thought it was relevant to mention "live chickens are sometimes sold in the parking lot across the street." It was somehow lost on the reporter (who no doubt wore a pith helmet for the assignment) that the art center is located in the Memorial Civic Center, which has won numerous national architectural awards and had recently undergone a $100 million renovation.

Lindsay is disappointed by such cliché news coverage, but he is convinced that in time, Richmond will get its due. "There's no reason Richmond can't be one of the premiere cities in the Bay Area," he said. "We have all the bones to make that happen." ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

CULTURE SPY

THE ANTI-RAPTURE MOVEMENT

Local atheists gear up for their own Judgment Day

By Rachel Swan

Okay, so the Rapture is coming. You've seen the billboards. You've heard crackly-voiced **Harold Camping** rhapsodize about it on his national Christian broadcast network, **Family Radio**, based in Oakland. Unless you've spent the last several weeks in some kind of weird news bubble, you're surely aware that May 21 is Judgment Day, which means that adherents to the Christian faith will ascend into heaven, graves will purge their dead, and those of us who aren't "saved" will be left walking around with zombies. So says Camping, at least.

Meanwhile, local atheists have their own Rapture to attend. They've mounted a billboard, too, right at the foot of the Bay Bridge. Sixty-eight feet long, painted bright electric yellow, it includes a silhouette of Jesus and a sassy slogan: "The Rapture: You KNOW It's Nonsense." The response it has elicited was well worth the $27,000 it cost to produce, said **David Silverman**, president of **American Atheists**. His organization has erected several such billboards throughout the country to coincide with a series of anti-Rapture parties it will hold during the weekend of the second coming.

"We've been planning for a little over a month now, and we've had a very good response," Silverman said excitedly. "We're very concerned that people are so easily suckered into doomsday cults, and we're calling them out." His voice started to crescendo. "We're saying, 'You know what, America? It's time to use your intellect.'"

Larry Hicok and a furry friend

Rachel Swan

Larry Hicok couldn't agree more. The 61-year-old retired auto-shop worker currently serves as state director of American Atheists, and as program director for three local groups — **East Bay Atheists, Atheists Advocates of San Francisco**, and **Atheists and Freethinkers of Contra Costa County**. At the former two, Hicok says he's basically "the dude." Meanwhile, his meet-up group for local "atheists, agnostics, brights, humanists and freethinkers" is the third largest atheist coffee klatch in the world.

Thus, he's also the main point person for the **West Coast Rapture RAM** (Regional Atheist Meeting), scheduled to run this weekend at **Oakland Masonic Center** — barring the unforeseen. Expected to draw about two hundred participants, the conference will feature keynote speeches from scholars, bloggers, student activists, former Christians, atheist feminists, and other crusaders. It will offer a chance for so-called "heathens and skeptics" to discuss their collective disdain for "God" (whose name is always framed by quotation marks on the American Atheist web site). Or they could just join hands and sing Kumbaya.

Hicok didn't appoint the speakers, but he got to approve the lineup, and he's handling most of the logistics — from delegating tasks to volunteers, to doing on-camera interviews with the Spanish television station Univision. At this point, he treats atheism as nearly a full-time job. And for the past few weeks, it's been his only job, to the detriment of other pursuits.

Event Details
West Coast Rapture RAM happens Saturday and Sunday, May 21-22, at Oakland Masonic Center (3903 Broadway, Oakland). $20-$49. Atheists.org

"You see this?" Hicok said, grabbing a giant, man-size dandelion that had burst from the soil in front of his Pinole home. "A six-foot weed." He shook his head. "Very soon I'll have more free time and the weeds in my garden won't be so high."

Like many fellow atheists, Hicok considers himself a refugee from a pious Christian family in a staunchly religious small town. He grew up in Albany, Oregon, during the Fifties and Sixties. Population: 20,000. One high school. That high school had an elected Protestant chaplain who gave an invocation at every game and assembly. "That was public high school in 1962," Hicok scoffed. His home was merely a reflection of the surrounding environment. "I grew up in a Presbyterian home," he said. "My mother was a fundamentalist. My father was religious, but not terribly serious about it." He paused. "There was a certain point when I was twelve that I decided I don't understand this whole religion thing."

That was the point that Hicok, always a bookworm, familiarized himself with the book *An Intellectual History of the Western World* by **Harry Barnes**. It led him to conclude that Christianity was a collection of myths and beliefs — many of them politically-motivated — rather than a set of inviolable truths. "Since that was the only religion I had a sense of, I rejected it," Hicok said. Later, he read an interview with **Madalyn Murray O'Hair**, who founded American Atheists in 1963, the same year she won a Supreme Court case to prohibit prayer in the public school system. Inspired, Hicok called the **American Civil Liberties Union** to complain about the Protestant invocations at his high school. For the first time he found a sympathetic ear.

"So I went to my school," Hicok said proudly. "And I told them: 'I'm an atheist, what you're doing here is illegal. And the ACLU would like to put a lawsuit on you, unless you change.'" He paused a beat, savoring the victory. "So they changed."

Not every atheist has some kind of victory-over-the-oppressor narrative, but many of them do experience some kind of "conversion." Usually, it starts with a rejection of Christianity, Hicok was quick to point out. In his case, it was also a way of repudiating the status quo. Hicok became more decidedly anti-establishment after leaving home to study history at Reed College — and subsequently dropping out to join the anti-war movement. He says that many hard-core atheists are of his generation, meaning they came up in a time when American values seemed a little more puritanical and required more abject forms of rebellion. Many of them feel persecuted, Hicok said, adding that he became something of a social pariah, railing against God in his rural hometown. He said that even in the progressive Bay Area, people occasionally snicker when he admits to being a nonbeliever. "We're still trying to get secular people to come out of the closet," he said.

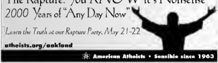
Granted, "freethinkers" and non-believers don't have to muzzle themselves in Berkeley or San Francisco, which is why American Atheists are much more effective in the Red States. Hicok explained that in certain parts of Alabama and Mississippi, the RAM conventions really do feel like a homecoming. Ironically, atheism appears to work best among people who have a strong understanding of Christianity. Perhaps that's an indication of how oddly similar the American Atheists are to their Christian counterparts — at least on a structural level. Both organizations rely on top-down hierarchies, adherence to a certain dogma, conversion narratives, gatherings of the faithful, and evangelism. Atheists might not have a covenant with God, but they certainly have their own catechism. In fact, the hilarious thing about hard-core atheists is that they treat their lack of religion like a religion.

IRONICALLY, ATHEISM APPEARS TO WORK BEST AMONG PEOPLE WHO HAVE A STRONG UNDERSTANDING OF CHRISTIANITY. PERHAPS THAT'S AN INDICATION OF HOW ODDLY SIMILAR THE AMERICAN ATHEISTS ARE TO THEIR CHRISTIAN COUNTERPARTS.

Hicok demurs. "Some people might think I'm just a flipside of a fundamentalist," he snapped. "Well, if you don't have a disease, is that a disease?" He points out that there's an important, basic difference between atheism and any type of theism: One is grounded in scientific method, the other in faith (or, as Hicok would put it, "circular thinking"). That means a fervent atheist, unlike a fervent Christian, is willing to be proven wrong.

Oh, and one more thing: "When you're dead, you're dead," he declared. So if the Rapture does happen this weekend — well, tough. ●

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com


The Rapture: You KNOW it's Nonsense
2000 Years of "Any Day Now"
Learn the Truth at our Rapture Party, May 21-22
atheists.org/oakland
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The American Atheist Rapture billboard.

EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Ploy with Your Food

Kid-friendly DooF-a-Palooza is a new brand of food festival

It's "food" spelled backwards, and it's both a name and a guiding principle for the folks behind **DooF-a-Palooza**, happening Sunday, May 22, at **Jack London Square** (70 Washington St., Oakland). According to organizer **Scott Gelfand**, the event is "all about looking at food from every angle" — a multiplatform, kids-oriented, interactive, totally free celebration of healthy and sustainable food. Call it Eat Real Fest for the underage set, or a food festival/museum-exhibit mash-up executed on a huge scale, or simply the kind of event that would make Michelle Obama weep with joy. DooF-a-Palooza is a food festival made for kids that's neither staid and pedantic nor so self-consciously "fun" that it's completely free of substance.

Gelfand's background is in entertainment — he's been performing in and producing a kids' show cottage industry called *The Buddy Club* for nearly 25 years — so he came to DooF with a unique understanding of what, exactly, it takes to get kids excited. He was joined in the planning process, he said, by a "great group of people who are really smart and who really love kids."

Gelfand and his team are fond of describing DooF as a festival where kids are allowed — even encouraged — to play with their food. Goats, bees, ponies, and live wolves (!) are involved, as are pizza dough throwing, butter-making, pasta rolling, and coconut husking. Add to that appearances by magicians, comedians, and a whole host of kid-friendly food vendors, not to mention the holy grail of pre-teen entertainment, *Radio Disney*. **Organic Valley** farm is coming armed with a fake cow complete with buckets rigged to look and feel like udders.

DooF-a-Palooza Sue Wong

("How many kids who live in Oakland would get a chance to literally feel what it's like to milk a cow?" Gelfand asked.) Another activity lets kids catapult a "meatball" — really a spray-painted tennis ball — into a vat of tomato sauce, and another has local design and video firm **Free Range Studios** leading workshops in food animation.

Altogether, Gelfand said, the idea is to connect kids with their food in a tangible, straight-from-the-source way, so they can make informed decisions about what they're eating. "Research has shown that when kids have a hands-on experience they're a hundred times more apt to make decisions based on that experience," he said. "So the idea is really for kids to learn the journey of their food from source to table, putting their hands on a beet for first time, or learning about twenty different types of oranges that there are, or seeing the journey that apples take to become apple juice and apple sauce."

It's a model that has apparently worked well thus far. This is the third iteration of the festival; the first two took place on the Google campus in Mountain View, but attendance quickly outpaced space ("I love being able to say we outgrew Google," Gelfand quipped). This year, the event features more than 100 participating booths, and organizers expect somewhere between 10,000 and 20,000 attendees. Ultimately, Gelfand said he hopes DooF — as far as he knows, the only festival of its kind in the country — will expand to five or ten other cities nationwide. A father of two girls himself, Gelfand is well aware of the appeal and utility of a festival like DooF. "Pardon the expression, but people are hungry for this." 10 a.m.-5 p.m., free. FoodBackwards.com

— *Ellen Cushing*

ATTRACTIONS

Architectural Tour of Berkeley City Club Free docent-led tours of the Julia Morgan-designed building. Sun., May 22, 1-4 p.m., free. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-7800. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

Bedtime with the Beasts A chance for youth groups (age 6-18) and their adult chaperones to get a look at what goes on at the zoo after the rest of the guests leave. An education specialist will lead groups on a special evening tour, and then participants will camp out in the education building. Reservations required. Sun., June 12, 510-632-9525 ex. 122. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525, http://www.oaklandzoo.org. Fri., May 20, 7 p.m. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525, OaklandZoo.org.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

14th Annual Celebrating Elephants Dinner, Lecture, and Silent Auction With food, a silent auction, a raffle drawing, a presentation on elephants, and more in the zoo's Marian Zimmer Auditorium. All proceeds will benefit the Amboseli Elephant Research Project. Sat., May 21, 6-9 p.m., $20. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525, OaklandZoo.org.

Alameda Architectural Preservation Society Bonnie Preservation Awards Gala honoring preservation, renovation, and adaptive reuse efforts in Alameda, with refreshments, live music, and an awards ceremony hosted by [illegible]. Thu., May 19, 6:30 p.m., free. Auditorium by the Bay Theater, Alameda Point Naval Air Station, Alameda. [illegible]

[illegible] Conference and Party With speakers, including [illegible], Rebecca Watson, Jen McCreight, [illegible], plus food and various more social events and activities. See [illegible] for a full schedule of festivities. May 21-22, $70-$99. Oakland Masonic Center, 3083 Broadway, Oakland.

[illegible] College Resource Fair Featuring local colleges, SAT [illegible] and youth resources, a [illegible] spoken word battle and appearances by [illegible], and more. Register at [illegible]. Sat., May 21, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., free. Oakland Marriott City Center, 1001 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4000.

DooF-a-Palooza Kids-oriented "play with your food" festival. With hands-on food and science workshops, games, entertainment, and more. Sun., May 22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., free. Jack London Square, 70 Washington Street, Oakland.

[illegible] Jazz Arts Festival Featuring live music by local artists, arts and crafts, food for sale, and more. Sat., May 21, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., free. San Antonio Park, 1701 East 19th St., Oakland. 510-238-7275, OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks.

Ninth Annual Berkeley Poetry Festival With readings, lectures, and an art exhibit. Sat., May 21, 1-5 p.m., free. Berkeley City College, 2050 Center St., Berkeley. 510-981-2800. [illegible]

[illegible] and Arts Festival With dance, music, and taiko drumming performances, plus Japanese and Hawaiian food for sale, arts and crafts, carnival games, and a silent auction. Sat., May 21, 3-9 p.m.; Sun., May 22, 12-7 p.m., free. Berkeley Buddhist Temple, 2121 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-841-1356. [illegible]

Sixth Annual Walk to End Poverty Registration at 9 a.m. Bring a non-perishable food donation for a free t-shirt while supplies last, followed by a walk around the lake and then a [illegible], face painting, live music, and more. Sat., May 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Lake [illegible], 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Laughing for the Health of It Beverly Bounds leads a workshop for older adults

THE GOLDEN APOCALYPSE
COMING
SATURDAY
MAY 21
TO THE CRANEWAY PAVILION
ROLLER DERBY
6PM DOORS 8PM BOUT
THE BAY AREA DERBY ALL STARS
V
ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIGHT CLUB
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Bay Area Derby Girls
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PICKS

Albany Film Festival

How many small town community film festivals include work by Oscar-nominated documentarians or National Endowment for the Arts fellowship winners? The first annual **Albany Film Festival** began inauspiciously enough, said organizer **Jeremy Allen** — as a simple chance for local filmmakers in the slightly sleepy city to screen their work — but it's taken on something of a life of its own, beyond his or anyone else's expectations. That means a juried, diverse slate of short films in various genres — including one by local Academy Award nominee **Geefwee Boedoe** and another by acclaimed Chilean artist **Quique Cruz** — plus a raffle, food and drink, and plenty of popcorn Saturday, May 21 at the **Albany Community Center Theater** (1249 Marin Ave., Albany). Noon-6 p.m. $5-$8 for all-day admission with in-out privileges. 510-559-7223 or AlbanyCA.org. — *Ellen Cushing*

Albany Film Festival.

Adult Open-Gym Basketball

The pickup game is the very heart of the sport of basketball. It's all in the simplicity. For a bare bones game of three-on-three, grab a ball, an open hoop, a couple teammates, and an opposing team. Play to eleven, call your own fouls, and clear the ball beyond the arc to change possession. Upgrade to a full five-on-five contest with one more hoop and four more players. When the game's done mix up the teams and do it again — or, after a close one, call for a grudge match. It's the stuff of legend, and available for $3 every Friday through August 5, including Friday, May 20, at **open-gym basketball at Emery Secondary School** (1100 47th St., Emeryville). Starting June 20, the gym is also open Mondays through August 1. The only question left is whether to go shirts or skins. Ci.Emeryville.ca.us or 510-596-4300. — *Nate Seltenrich*

Point Richmond Art Walk

With its quaint [illegible] views and [illegible] feel, Point Richmond may very well be the East Bay's best-kept secret. And with the addition of the gorgeous multi-use venue the Craneway Pavilion and now the **Point Richmond Art Walk**, it may be well on its way to becoming an arts destination, too. On Thursday, May 19, **Refined by Fire** (103 W. Richmond Ave., Richmond) leads several other galleries, plus a couple bars and restaurants, in hosting the neighborhood's second-ever art walk. Check it out now before it's the next artsy hipster hangout. 6-9 p.m., free. PointRichmond.com — *E.C.*

Oakland Amateur Golf Championship

It's one of the East Bay's best to tee up. On Saturday, May 21, **Lake Chabot Golf Course** (11450 Golf Links Rd., Oakland) hosts the 89th annual **Oakland Amateur Golf Championship**. The title hunt is open to any Oakland resident who registered and paid the $85 fee, and men's, women's, and senior competitions will award top prizes to those with the lowest score after 36 holes of play. Some of the great names of golf history have battled in this East Bay tradition, including San Leandro's Tony Lema, a British Open champ who honed his game at the Oakland Amateur. For the winners, there are gift certificate prizes and free entry into next year's tournament. For the runners-up, there's always next year. At least there has been for the last 88 years. Tournament begins 7 a.m., free to spectators. 510-351-5812 or LakeChabotGolf.com — *Kibby Kleiman*

drink the relationship between laughter and good health. Wed., May 25, 7-8:30 p.m., Free. Alameda Free Library, 1550 Oak Street, Alameda. 510-[illegible], alamedafree.org/library

KIDS

[illegible] Summer Weekend at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach With [illegible] contests, surf music, and [illegible] summer themed activities, in addition to Playland's standard offerings. Costumes encouraged. May 21-22. $10-$15. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. PlaylandNotattheBeach.org.

Children's Summer Reading [illegible] With a panel of children's book specialists: [illegible] of Random House Children's Publishing; [illegible], Avenir School Librarian and member of 2011 Newbery Committee; [illegible], sales rep for [illegible] Books for Young Readers; and Anne Whiting, Mrs. Dalloway's Children's Book Buyer. Also featuring a raffle, light snacks, and a 20 percent discount on the evening's featured books. Event is geared for elementary school children, their parents, teachers and librarians. Thu., May 19, 7 p.m. Free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Oakland [illegible] District [illegible] Fair With science [illegible] by local students. Wed., May 25, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free with museum admission ([illegible]-$15). Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

Tyke Explorers: [illegible] Instructor-led hands-on activities for kids 2-5 years old plus an adult. Tue., May 24, 10 a.m. & noon. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7313. ChabotSpace.org.

The World's Greatest Bubble Show Interactive, family-friendly show from The Amazing Bubbleman. Sundays, 11 a.m. Continues through July 31. $8-$10. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. TheMarsh.org.

LGBT

[illegible] Steppin' Tour 10 K [illegible] With live entertainment, refreshments, and more. All donations go toward Sistahs Steppin' in Pride, the East Bay's dyke march and Pride festival. Sun., May 22, [illegible] p.m. Free. Start at Lake Merritt, One Lakeside Dr., Oakland.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Lag B'Omer Gathering With a bonfire, live music, relay races, a drum circle, [illegible], and more. Sponsored by Chabad of the East Bay, Congregation Beth Israel and Beit Midrash [illegible], and [illegible]. At the Padre Picnic Site, South Park Drive. Sun., May 22, 4-8 p.m. $15-$18 per person or $36-$47 per family. Tilden Regional Park, Entrances on Wildcat Canyon Rd. and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley. 510-843-2137. EBParks.org/Parks/Tilden.

Sunday Evening Mindfulness and Awareness Series Fifteen week series of non-sectarian talks and meditations, facilitated by local authors and spiritual leaders. Sundays, 7-9 p.m. Continues through June 12. $10 suggested donation. Berkeley [illegible] Universalist Fellowship, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-841-4824. UUCB.org.

Tantric Puja Learn about tantra and tantric breathing [illegible], plus and to "open your heart to each being" and "see the divine in each person as they see the divine in you." Lightly sensual dress to express. Fri., May 20, 7:30-10:30 p.m. $20-$25, no one turned away. 510-967-6826. Tara's Temple, 854 Oakland Avenue, Oakland.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Polynesian Paradise With a dinner catered by Kevin Wynn, a wine bar, and donation, music by [illegible] and the Sound Waves. Dressy casual/Hawaiian attire requested. Early registration strongly suggested. Contact event hosts Greg or Dib Connaughton by telephone at (510) [illegible] or by email at [illegible] with questions or for further information. Sat., May 21, 6 p.m., $30-$60 per couple. [illegible] Club, 2206 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-2227. [illegible]Club.org.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Oakland Safe Boating Week Open House With free boat rides and rentals, boating safety information, water safety games for kids, and more. Sat., May 21, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Lake Merritt Boating Center, 568 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. 510-238-2196. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Programs/Boating.asp.

Oakland A's vs. Minnesota Twins Thu., May 19, 12:35 p.m. $2-$100. Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

9th Annual Berkeley Poetry Festival
& Art Festival

Free

Saturday — May 21st
12:30 — 4:30 P.M.

Auditorium & Atrium
Berkeley City College
2050 Center St., Berkeley

A Day of the Muses — Poetry & Art Together

Info: www.mothershen.com

Sponsors Mother's Hen, City of Berkeley & Alameda County

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TICKETS: BayAreaGreenTours.org

More Info: 510-[illegible]. Find us on Facebook

BAGT [illegible] a project of the Sustainable Business Alliance [illegible]

FREE FILM SCREENING

Fixing the Future: Rescuing the Economy in Communities Across America

followed by networking and a conversation about what we can do to fix Oakland's future 5/18, 5:30-8 pm, downtown Oakland venue

This inspiring film features colorful people across America who are creating the new economy & sustainable ways of living – providing proof that by acting together, we can improve the quality of life of our entire community

Hosts: Sustainable Business Alliance, Sustainable Economies Law Center, Active Voice, Green Drinks, Oakland Grown, East Bay Express
Pre-registration strongly encouraged as venue capacity is limited

OTHER EVENTS:
- **1st Friday of every month:** Networking Lunches
- **Every 3rd Wednesday:** East Bay Green Drinks
- **6/14:** Panel Discussion: How Sustainable are the Workers in Sustainable Organizations?
- **7/12.** Green Speed Networking

To pre-register & get more info
www.sustainablebusinessalliance.org

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The Seventh Annual Festival Of Dance & Music
CUBACARIBE FESTIVAL
May 11 – May 28, 2011
Theater
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Dance & music performances, master classes, lectures & films explore the … of the Afro-Caribbean Diaspora
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I, Too, Sing America
A Celebration of African American Music
Including Spirituals, Gospel, Jazz and R & B
Saturday, May 21
7:30 p.m.
Congregational Church, Oakland
Sunday, May 22
4:00 p.m.
Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church
Tickets: $25 In Advance
$30 At Door, $10 Youth
www.cantarecreative.org
(510) 836 0789

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Still from Amanda Banks' Make Believe

Going the Distance

Mixed-media shows explore the far away and long ago

In *Re-FABLE*, two artists explore memory and history through photography, video, collage/assemblage and installation. **Amanda Williams** combines old photos with snippets of handwriting and touches of yellow-ocher stuff in her collages on panel ("Like Great-Grandmother Like Daughter," "3 Generations"), history defined as subjectivity. **April Banks** takes a similar approach in her *Fourth Generation (Valley St.)* encaustic/photo-transfer images, severely cropped, denoting memory's faultiness. She also inserts herself, Zelig-like, into the past, in a photo collage and a video both entitled "Make Believe." A plaster frieze of violins ("Possession Is Nine Tenths"), or rather, raw violins à la Nauman/Whiteread, based on a musing heirloom family story, sounds a ghostly silence. *Re-FABLE* runs through May 22 at **Swarm Gallery** (560 2nd St., Oakland), 510-839-2787 or SwarmGallery.com.

With climate change and rising sea levels, Antarctica is topically hot these days. The eleven artists or artist teams in this show, curated by **Stephanie Ellis**, depict it with satire and whimsy, however, rather than austral gloom and watery doom. Examples: **Susanna Corcoran**'s "My Island" photo of a blue mattress adrift on gray pavement; **Madelyn Covey**'s crocheted "Glacier"; **Seth Murchison**'s fake-fur "Bear Suit"; and multimedia science-project parodies by **Michael Koehle**, **Kent Rodriguez Segura**, **Michael Mersereau**, and **Camilla Newhagen**. Don't miss **Sofia Sharpe**'s "The Rumor Mill," a small wall-mounted iceberg made of paraffin wax sheltering a penguin rookery of painted barley grains. *Art arctica* runs through May 28 at **Royal NoneSuch Gallery** (4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland), RoyalNoneSuchGallery.com.

Gyres are the five Texas-size (or larger) oceanic vortices of plastic particles, fatal food to marine life and not so great for terrestrials up the food chain (due to the absorption of chemicals). Yes, it's depressing, but the huge kinetic sculpture crafted by **Kathleen King**, **Dave Meeker** and **Laura van Duren**, **"The Gyre,"** raises our consciousness without dampening our spirits. A slowly rotating mobile water column full of wittily rendered critters (e.g., bubble-wrap starfish) is a funny, beautiful brain food. Meeker's trophy fish wrapped in discount-store plastic bags and crime-scene tape completes the curriculum; read the fact sheet, too. **Charlie Milgrim**'s *On the Precipice* addresses the news metaphorically in pastel and oil stick drawings entitled "Edge," "Escape" (both depicting orbs, symbols of perfect unity and fickle fortune), "Party Dresses," and "Twin Towers" (depicting hourglass/torso/apple-core forms based on nuclear cooling stacks). "Ancient Ram" continues Milgrim's run of bowling-ball sculpture strikes. "Gyre" and *Precipice* run through May 28 at **Mercury 20 Gallery** (475 25th St., Oakland), 510-701-4620 or MercuryTwenty.com.

— *DeWitt Cheng*

ART GALLERIES

ACCI Gallery: Wee 2011 Work by Leslie Corsiglia, Donna Bugay, Carol Larsen, Karin Lusnak, Hera Shortridge, Ruth Tebbenhoff, and Alexandra van Burg. Through June 5. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527, ACCIGallery.com.

Addison Street Windows Gallery: Beyond Borders Documentary photography by David Bacon about indigenous immigration from Mexico to the US. Through May 31. 2018 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-981-7546.

Art House Gallery & Cultural Center: Group Show: Berkeley City College Digital Arts Club With work by more than forty members of Berkeley City College's Digital Arts Club. Through June 15. 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-472-3170.

Basement Gallery Oakland: Smoke An exploration of the range of emotional response to fire, with its potential for utter destruction and its awe-inspiring power, with drawings by David Mulvany and drawings by Lauren Martin. Through June 4. 1817 3rd St., Oakland. BasementGalleryMosaicCenter.com.

Berkeley Art Center: Light/Dark Work by members of the California Society of Printmakers, selected by Enrique Chagoya. Through May 29. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893, BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Berkeley City College: ensemble(s) Juried student art show with work in digital and traditional media. Through Aug. 24. 2050 Center St., Berkeley. 510-981-2931, Peralta.edu.

Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch: Then & Now Experimental tapestry paintings by Lola Espinoza. Through June 18. Free. **Berkeley Public Library 30th Annual Quilt Show** Through June 5. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100, BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Frank Bette Center for the Arts: Windows On Alameda Group art show featuring photographs of Alameda taken by local amateur and professional photographers. Through May 28. Free. 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957, FrankBetteCenter.org.

Branch Gallery: Zen With a Kickstand Sculpture and large-scale drawings by Steven Branch. Through July 1. 455 17th St., Ste #301, Oakland.

The Compound Gallery: American Vinyl Work by Jeanne Lorenz about "the last record store on the planet," with hand-painted record prints and illustrations of ... records. Through June 5. 1167 65th St., Oakland. 510-637-4042, TheCompoundGallery.com.

Creative Growth Art Center: Outside In Work in various media by students and instructors at Creative Growth, which works with people with disabilities. Through June 30. 355 24th St., Oakland. 510-836-2340, CreativeGrowth.org.

Expressions Gallery: Borders and Membranes Art Work in various media by local artists. Through June 10. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930, ExpressionsGallery.org.

Firehouse North: Two Artists, Two Traditions Landscapes by Sylvia Gonzalez and handmade papers and scrolls by Carol Brigham. Through May 27. 1790 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. FirehouseArtCollective.blogspot.com.

Float Center: Worlds Apart Work by Addison Tashaye and Chia Pattmutus. Through June 4. Free. **Worlds Apart** Paintings by Patrick Dreyer, and sculpture by Addison Tashaye. Through June 4. 1931 Coloma Pl., Oakland. 510-535-4702, TheFloatCenter.com.

Johansson Projects: From the Archives LP cover production art, promotional photos, drawings, scratch-board illustrations, and digital imagery by Homer Flynn, a designer for the music, video and performance group The Residents. Through June 17. Free. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140, JohanssonProjects.com.

John F. Kennedy University Arts and Consciousness Gallery: Odyssey of Boundlessness: A Quest for the Genuine Work by Claudia Marseille, Irene Shiffel, and Bliss Hugel. Through May 21. Free. 2956 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-0499, JFKU.edu/gallery.

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter: Dancing Free "Dancing Free" celebrating nature and human beings in the East Bay Regional Parks. Through May 27. 101 8th St., Oakland. 510-464-7700, www.mtc.ca.gov.

Krowswork: (Un)constructing the Limited Work by Naomon Rosen, Mattie Hisley, and Ferrin Gurvitt. May 20-June 18. 480

5th Annual Oakland Indie Awards

Celebrating the Social & Environmental Impact of Oakland's Independent Businesses & Artists

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2011 WINNERS

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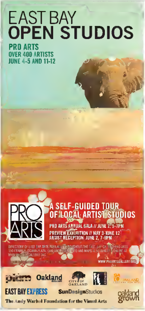

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SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY
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San Francisco Symphony Chorus Concert
Sun May 22 4pm
Ragnar Bohlin conductor
Leah Wool mezzo soprano
Robert Huw Morgan organ
Matthew Edwards piano
San Francisco Symphony Chorus
Duruflé Requiem
Choral arrangements of works by Bach, Schubert, Schumann, Busbee, Nystedt and Mahler
Under the direction of Chorus Director Ragnar Bohlin the San Francisco Symphony Chorus has been deemed "mighty and volcanic" by the San Francisco Chronicle. The San Jose Mercury News raves, "And if there was a star of Friday's show, it was the Chorus itself. Nothing was oversung or underdone; the group's singing was lit up from the inside." Bohlin leads the Grammy® award-winning San Francisco Symphony Chorus in a program of masterpieces that includes Duruflé's Requiem, at once lush and exuberant.
Side Terrace, Center Terrace, and Second Tier seats not available.
"The San Francisco Symphony Chorus … continues to boast its characteristically robust sound and emotional responsiveness, but Director Ragnar Bohlin has added a new measure of clarity and rhythmic bite to the mix."
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
sfsymphony.org
(415) 864-6000
Box Office Hours: Mon–Fri 10am–6pm, Sat noon–6pm, Sun 2 hours prior to concerts. Walk Up: Grove St. between Van Ness and Franklin
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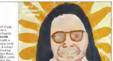
SEASON PARTNERS
Groups of 10 or more save 20%
Concert at Davies Symphony Hall
Programs, artists, and prices subject to change

PICKS

Good Times

Solid painting skills and engaging eccentricity combine in the work of the Massachusetts couple **Carrie Mae Smith** and **Greg Watson**. Smith, a butcher's daughter, makes work about the meat world. A collage series swathes *Joy of Cooking* illustrations (e.g., "Crown Roast, [Lamb]," "Pork Chops") in 1970s floral wallpaper swatches. Her oils ("Rack of Lamb," "Thick-cut Bacon with Pork") may look lowbrow(?), but they soar with deadpan humor, like her foam-stuffed stocking sausages. Watson's small oils treat traditional subjects (portraits, pets, people eating) with droll, weird humor. "Tart," "Joe," "Consort," "Singer Songwriter," and "Sister Wendy" hover amiably just short of caricature. "Ham," "My First Ham," "Bad Dream," "Bathers," "Smiling Heads," and "Bicycle Card with Thumb" are classics of oddball humor and admirable painting chops (no ribbing intended). *Good Times* runs through May 26 at **Kuhl Frames + Art** (412 22nd St., Oakland), 510-625-0103 or KuhlFrames.com. — *DeWitt Cheng*



Bettie Chang

Byron Spicer

Chuck Close and Georges Seurat may come to mind when you see **Byron Spicer**'s mosaic paintings, but while those artists employ ovals as they dots to transform the everyday into the monumental, Spicer composes his gridded images from small square paintings on paper, both figurative and abstract, aiming at a Chuck Jones-like Looney Tunes humor. Subject matter like a colossal sculpted head ("Easter Island"), a cartoony alligator ("Under the Radar"), and a young Arnold Schwarzenegger strutting his manly stuff ("Kahlesfornia Bling" and "Total Recall") coalesce from squiggles and doodles. His titles are similarly jocular: A circular ring is entitled "Oh" and a painting comprised of undying image is entitled "Treasure Hunt." Spicer's shapes seep across his boundaries, so surfaces and depths play against each other or dance to a merry melody. *Byron Spicer* runs through June 21 at **Latham Square** (1611 Telegraph Ave., Oakland), 510-763-4361 or ProArtsGallery.org. — *D.C.*

23rd St., Oakland.

L'Aspo Sua Kay: Photographs from Laos Work by Vaughn Nevsoomian. Through June 29. Free. 4229 Piedmont Ave., Oakland.

Latham Square Building. Byron Spicer Mosaic paintings. Through June 21. 1611 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-858-8700, ProArtsGallery.org.

Mercury 20 Gallery. Memory Multiples: Artist's Editions Artist's Multiples by Charlie Milgrim, Kathleen King, R.R. Fissell, and others. Through Nov. 28. **On the Precipice** Sculpture, installation and drawing by Charlie Milgrim. Through May 28. **The Dyn** Recent work "kinetic installation" by Kathleen King, [illegible] and Laura [illegible]. Through May 28. 475 25th St., Oakland. 510-444-7785, MercuryTwenty.com.

Anna Pearl's Jazz Music: Music Museum With various guests, hosted by Sampson Kolieba. Thu., May 19, 8 p.m.; Fri., May 20, 8 & 10 p.m.; Sat., May 21, 8 & 10 p.m. $40. One Broadway, Oakland. [illegible]

Mythos Fine Art & Artifacts. Looking Past, Seeing Through Paintings by Paul Alexander, Lilly Fenichel, Harry [illegible], and others. Through June 18. 1787 Solano Ave., Berkeley.

NIAD Art Center. Life in the Bloom by Course: Darkness Falls: Blink-Us Work in various media by more than 100 artists. Through June 3. 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290, NIADart.org.

Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch. The Painters from Lorenzo de' Medici Art & Nature (The Academy of Fine Art in Florence) Alumni Exhibition Paintings by Jan Koop, Francesca Renzi and Ayako Hanzawa. Through May 28. 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344, OaklandLibrary.org.

Pacific Nature Museum. Hungry Book art and mixed media paintings by Leah Wenk. Through June [illegible]. 1140 Webster St., Alameda. 510-[illegible], PacificPinball.org.

PRO ARTS. Contrapuntal Work by Peter [illegible] and Lisa Levine. Through May 28. Free. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-407-0468, ProArtsGalleryOakland.com.

Mirabilis Gallery. The Secret Life of Balloons Photography by Doug Burgess. Through June [illegible]. 2235 Fifth St., Berkeley.

Pro Arts Gallery. East Bay Open Studios Preview Weekend "Living catalog" of work by the featured local artists participating in East Bay Open Studios, May 25–June 11. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361.

Richmond Art Center. Beyond Tradition: Art Legacies at the Richmond Art Center [illegible] work by various artists from the center's 75-year run. Through June 19. 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond. 510-620-6772, TheRichmondArtCenter.org.

Royal Nonesuch Gallery. Antarctica Work in various media by Alla Sharpe, Michelle Roetke, Matthew Gottschalk, Fenner Park, and others. Through May 28. 4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 415-[illegible], RoyalNonesuchGallery.com.

San Pablo Art Gallery. Small Miracles Works by California College of the Arts alumni, including Steven Baroh, Chandra Cerrito, Jan Dodge, Ian Gehrig, Alice Goldon, Carole Jeung, Sam Perry, Eileen Reed, Barbara Rogers, and Eileen Stow Modarbacher. Through June 19. Free. GoMirabilis.org. 13831 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo. 510-898-2060, Ci.San-Pablo.ca.us.

Sight School. A Measurement of the Distance New work by Matt Kennedy, with a various installation by Sarah [illegible] admission. Through June 4. 5651 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 323-384-2720, SightSchool.com.

Slate Contemporary Art and Design Gallery. Information: Five Bay Area Gardens Work by Vickie Jo Sowell, Susan Fox, Lisa Fernald, [illegible] Fox, Connie Lebow, and Anne Subercaseaux. Through June 18. 4770 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-652-4085.

Studio Quercus. Salvation Nation Paintings and [illegible], exploring the idea of suburbia, by Aaron Lippert. Through June 11. 385 26th St., Oakland. 510-452-4331, StudioQuercus.com.

Telegraph Ave. Maramonza Stroll the corridor featuring exhibitions, art and live music, local wine tasting, art and street performances, video screenings, and more. Sat., May 21, 7–10 p.m. Free. Between 23rd and 27th Streets, Oakland.

Traywick Contemporary. Em "Radiative landscapes" made from cut vinyl, cord, coated paper, acrylic panels and surfaces by Bettina Gardner. Through July 8. 895 Colusa Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-1214, Traywick.com.

A Vote for Solitary Warm. Photography by Christopher Burgess's Wilderness photographs. Through June 8. Free. 6618 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. Steve Abrahamson.com.

Mosaic Gallery. Spring Redeemed New spring-themed work in various media by Elias Bongford, Ezra, Maneo Cartwright, Walter James Lakeshore, Cyrus Tilton, Brydon Bost, Luke Hohenbigner, and Mari Martin. Through June 18. And 458 33rd St., Oakland.

MUSEUMS

Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive. Daings An artistic compilation of corporate branding, with work by Jeff Crouse. Through Nov. 20. **Nature into Action** Paintings by [illegible] Hofmann. Through June [illegible]. Free–$10. **Golden of the Past: Qing Dynasty Chinese Painting** Chinese paintings from the 13th through 17th centuries. Through June 20. Free–$10. **Himalayan Pilgrimage: Journey to the Land of Snows** Sculpture and painting from Tibet. Through June 30, 2013. Free–$10. **Thom Faulders: GAllscape** Commissioned work featuring sculpture and furniture coated in abstract designs. Through Nov. 20. **Inarguably Uncertain** Exhibition of work by the students in the Master of Fine Arts program, including Maria Esac, Chris E. Vargas, David Gregory Wallace, and Narangkar Glover. May 20–June 26. Free with museum admission (free–$10). 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808, BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Oakland Museum of California. Splendors of Faith/Scars of Conquest: The Arts of the Missions of Northern New Spain, 1600–1821 Exhibition of art and artifacts from mission churches in what is now the Southwestern US, California, and Mexico. Through May 29. Free with museum admission (free–$12). **Contemporary Views 11** Works by contemporary artists, presented in conjunction with the Oakland exhibit "Splendors of Faith/Scars of Conquest." Through May 29. Free with museum admission. **Roland C. McMillan: Trails & Thoughts** Career retrospective of the mixed-media artist, featuring unknown paintings, oversize installations, and more. Through Aug. 14. Free with museum admission (free–$8). 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-238-2200, MuseumCA.org.

THEATER & DANCE

Armelia McQueen.

Ladies Sing the Blues

Blues in the Night illuminates female singers' lives.

A washed-up diva, a young ingénue, and a beautiful, stylish creature "of indeterminate age" walk into a hotel lobby. The setting is late-Thirties-era Chicago, and the building is slightly decrepit but awash in romance. A male saloon singer awaits them. He's a bit of a know-it-all and slightly sinister. The old diva is foundering at the end of a prolific career, trying to be ready "when they call again." The young girl is bright-eyed and enthusiastic, preparing for a date who may never show up. The stylish woman is adrift and alluring in a **Josephine Baker** kind of way. The night is young.

Together, these four wanderers comprise the cast of *Blues in the Night*, a musical revue written by Sheldon Epps and premiered at the off-Broadway Playhouse 46 in 1980. It's now playing at **Center REPertory Company** in a production directed and choreographed by **Robert Barry Fleming**. With 26 blues and jazz songs by such standard-bearers as **Duke Ellington**, **Billy Strayhorn**, **Johnny Mercer**, and **Bessie Smith**, *Blues* evokes the world of old Chicago, the racial departures of the 1930s, and the struggles of female singers in an impressionistic way. The set is a minimalist design of a hotel, with the suggestion of a lobby, a bar, and a ballroom. Even the architecture seems symbolic, as though to represent three different stages in the women's lives.

Fleming chose a promising cast to interpret the material, with **Armelia McQueen** playing the older woman — described in the script as a "lady from the road" — and **Debbie de Coudreaux** playing "the woman of the world." McQueen, who was an original member of the musical *Ain't Misbehavin'* when it toured on Broadway, brings considerable charisma and expertise to her role. DeCoudreaux, meanwhile, seemed like an apt choice because her own biography resembles that of the character she plays. Also a seasoned entertainer, she's the only African-American woman, other than Baker, to have headlined the Moulin Rouge. **C. K. Lewis** will showcase his deep, soulful baritone as "the man in the saloon." **Amanda Folena**, who plays the "girl with a date," was last seen in the guise of Britney Spears' mother in a previous CenterREP production. Here, she'll offer a different side of her personality, Fleming assures. "It'll surprise people," he said.

For his part, Fleming is no stranger to this form of musical revue. Previously, he's directed three for CenterREP: *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *All Shook Up*, and *She Loves Me*. A self-described Baby Boomer, he said he feels a strong emotional connection to jazz and blues music, even having grown up on Motown. "It's called rhythm and blues for a reason," he said, adding that the historical lineage of the music is just as important as its way of eliciting feelings. "A lot of the great artists that we love — like Aretha Franklin — came from this same foundation," Fleming said. "There would be no Beyoncé without Bessie Smith." *Blues in the Night* runs through June 25 at **Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts** (1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek). $38. CenterRep.org.

— Rachel Swan

COMEDY

84 Funny With local comics, hosted by Christopher Higgins and Berkeley Oil Addi Diaz. Tuesdays, 9 p.m. free. The New Parish, 579 18th St., Oakland. TheNewParish.com.

The Bedroom Featuring local comics Micah Boone, Ace Rell, Randy Sinistar and Chris Garcia, with rotating guests. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. $5. The Dark Room, 2263 Mission St., San Francisco. 415-401-7987. DarkRoomSF.com.

Comedy Bruise: Brian Malow And Michael Capozzola Sat., May 21, 8:30 p.m. $15-$50. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4940. TheMarsh.org.

The Comedy Grab Bag With fifteen professional and amateur comics doing 5-to-10-minute sets. Thursdays, 8:30 p.m., $5, plus two-item minimum. Bunjo's Comedy Lounge, 6513 Regional St., Dublin. 925-264-4413. BunjoComedy.com.

Comedy Blast Hosted by Tony Sparks. Thursdays, 8 p.m. free. Brainwash Cafe, 1122 Folsom St., San Francisco. 415-861-3663. Brainwash.com.

Comedy Open Mic Sign-ups at 5:30 p.m., each comic gets 4-5 minutes. Mondays, 7 p.m., $5. Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800. TommyTs.com.

Comedy Blast Hosted by Whitney the Rock Girl with rotating acts. Mondays, 8 p.m. $10. Rockit Room, 406 Clement St., San Francisco. 415-387-6344. RockitRoom.com.

Magic & Moxie! With Big Al Cantar & Friends bringing you an intimate Hosted performance of magic and comedy guests. Saturdays, 8 p.m. Marines' Memorial Theatre, Stage 25th, San Francisco. 415-640-0778.

Mega x Funny Mondays Weekly comedy and variety showcase featuring a rotating cast of comedians and hosted by Bay comedian Mega Gomez. Mondays, 8 p.m. $10. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4940. TheMarsh.org.

Murphin Hound Thu., May 19, 8 p.m.; Fri., May 20, 8 & 10 p.m.; Sat., May 21, 8 & 10 p.m. $20-$30, plus two-item minimum. Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800. TommyTs.com.

Saturday Night Comedy with Ann Randolph, Marie Lee, Mike Rhodes, Kessler, and Johnny Steele Featuring a rotating lineup of other performers. Saturdays, 8 p.m. $15-35 sliding scale, $50 reserved seats. The Marsh Berkeley @ Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4940. TheMarsh.org.

SF Comedy Showcase Sundays, 8 p.m. $8. Punch Line, 444 Battery St., San Francisco. 415-397-4337. SFPunchlineComedyClub.com.

5th Park of Laughs With Arnie Mahlmann, Bob Lieberman, Gary Anderson, Jon Keyes, Patrick McDermott and Luna Kanal. Sat., May 21, 8:30 p.m., $10. Bunjo's Comedy Lounge, 6513 Regional St., Dublin. 925-264-4413. BunjoComedy.com.

Steven Pearl, Rob Gross and Nick Bedal Sat., May 21, 8 p.m., $10-$15. BalleHouse Restaurant, 1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond. 510-215-0000. BalleHouseReRaucas.com.

J.B. Carter and Special Guest Sydney Hyvale Fri., May 20, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Sat., May 21, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m. $20-$30, plus two-item minimum. Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800. TommyTs.com.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Berkeley Ballet Theater: Spring Showcase With new work by choreographer KT Nelson of ODC/Dance, a work by Mark Foehringer, director and choreographer of Evansville Ballet, a new work by Damani Gorley, formerly of ODC/Dance, and restaging of the historic ballet Les Sylphides, plus performances by guest artists Brian Fisher, Robert Moses and Alec Lytton. With various receptions, parties, and special events, see BerkeleyBallet.org for full details. Fri., May 20, 7 p.m.; Sat., May 21, 2 & 8 p.m.; Sun., May 22, 2 & 8 p.m. $6-$23. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542. JuliaMorgan.org.

Footnotes The Oakland Ballet's Spring Repertory featuring ballets by local choreographers Amy Seiwert and Sonya

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PORT OF OAKLAND

THEATER & DANCE

Oakland Ballet Moves Farward

With a new director and fresh direction, the dance company joins the art scene.

Oakland has a taste for cutting-edge art, dance, and performance, so it stands to reason that **Oakland Ballet**'s historical repertoire, though highly regarded for two generations, has kept the company out of the current scene. But Oakland Ballet has changed, and its spring season, titled *FORWARDS!*, is its contemporary calling card.

In new artistic director **Graham Lustig**, who came on board in 2010 to resuscitate the struggling company and who commutes from New Jersey to do so, Oakland Ballet has a determined and open-minded leader who's passionate about creativity in all its forms. (A former Royal Ballet dancer, he also has the classical chops to understand and respect the company's heritage.)

"We've got some wonderful talent in this community," Lustig said. "That's one of the reasons I'm here: to discover all these different artists." With a plethora of internationally recognized choreographers to choose from, Lustig opted to partner with two of the Bay Area's best: **Sonya Delwaide**, Mills College professor and 2010 Izzie Award winner, and **Amy Seiwert**, recognized as one of *Dance* magazine's "25 to Watch."

Oakland Ballet Company's *Response to Change* — David DeSilva

Lustig paired each choreographer with a local artist to help develop an interdisciplinary program that melds contemporary ballet, poetry, music, and art. Delwaide's collaboration with abstract printmaker **Stephen Hayes** on "..." was revelatory. "It was fabulous for me to have this exchange with this artist," she said. Delwaide gained fresh insights into her quirky, lighthearted duets set to Mozart's fragile glass-harmonica melodies, and Hayes was awed by the dancers' translation of ideas into motion.

Seiwert will premiere her newly completed piece *Response to Change*, a five-part suite with music by DJ and composer **Mason Bates**. Her structured dances trace filigrees of movement that California College of the Arts student **Carolyn Simon** sought to capture in a handcrafted necklace.

Lustig himself contributes two pieces. Melodic piano by Philip Glass and a reading of Oakland poet **Robert Duncan**'s "Often I Am Permitted to Return to a Meadow" accompany *a ordsa rthmu ords*, which inspired photography by **Karlyn Benjamin**. *Vista*, a sultry interpretation of jazz by **John Lurie and the Lounge Lizards**, led artist **Marsha Balian** to create a sculpture. All of the artworks will be on display at the show.

Clearly, Oakland Ballet has taken a considered step into the future. "We want to get people excited to be part of Oakland and say, 'We do art, we have culture. And we are contemporary,'" Delwaide said.

Lustig agreed in his own philosophical way: "No one needs dance. No one needs ballet. But our lives are improved by having the affinity and the ability to touch these arts in our lives."

Oakland Ballet performs Thursday and Friday, May 19-20, at 8 p.m., and Saturday, May 21, at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. at **Laney College Theater** (900 Fallon St., Oakland). $15-$38. 800-838-3006 or OaklandBallet.org.

— *Claudia Bauer*

PICKS

8x8x8

Cocktails and contemporary dance mingle on Thursday, May 19, when eight choreographers perform dances in an eight-by-eight-foot (give or take) space at **The Uptown** (1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland). The occasion is the sixth annual **8x8x8**, a relaxed, refreshing, and sometimes raucous showcase for Bay Area dance artists that has become so popular it moved to the Uptown to accommodate its enthusiastic audience. Emerging and established performers from around the bay join in, and this year **paufve dance**, **sfdanceco**, **Janet Das Navarrete x Kajiyama**, **Lisa Townsend**, **Dandelion Dancetheater** (in its punk rock incarnation **Bandelion**) and the duo of **Melecio Estrella** and **Andrew Ward** will show favorite pieces and works in progress. Portland, Oregon's **Gregg Bielemeier** sneaks in too — the more the merrier — up to eight, of course. 8:30 p.m., $8. 510-451-8100 or PaufveDance.org.

— *Claudia Bauer*

Between May 18-21, 8 p.m., Sat. May 21, 3 p.m. $15-$50. Laney College Theater, 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-464-3543.

[illegible] Dance Celebration Celebration of the famous dancer and choreographer's birthday, featuring a performance by [illegible], a lecture by [illegible] Allen and the [illegible], and then an optional [illegible] 8 p.m. Reservations strongly suggested; call 510-451-1000. Sun., May 22, 4-5 p.m. [illegible] Club, a $10-$12 show only. [illegible] 525 [illegible] Ave., [illegible] 510-451-1000, [illegible] Club.org.

Our Daily [illegible] [illegible] performance about "what we eat and illuminates the [illegible] that underlie our eating practices." Choreographed by [illegible], Theater by [illegible], and featuring [illegible] Pippa Fleming, Eyla Moore, Alicia [illegible] and Amara Tabor-Smith of [illegible]. [illegible] Bring your kids, a dish to share, a recipe & food story to add to the quilt. [illegible] May 22, 5-7 p.m. [illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

Seventh Annual CubaCaribe Festival [illegible] celebration of folkloric and contemporary Afro-Caribbean dance and music. Featuring [illegible], performances by [illegible] Joseph, Aguas Da [illegible] Experimental [illegible] Dance Theater and [illegible] Dance Company, plus [illegible]. See website for full schedule of events. May 20-22, [illegible], CubaCaribe.org/festival7.html. Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, 1428 Alice St., [illegible] 510-268-7218, MalongaCenter.org.

LIVE VARIETY

[illegible] Style A monthly [illegible] for talented professional [illegible] performers. Third Saturday of every month, 8-9 p.m., $5-$10. [illegible] Theater, 3201 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-652-2120.

[illegible] Festival [illegible] Variety show [illegible] troupe featuring [illegible], burlesque, [illegible], comedy, and live music. [illegible] Fri., May 20, 8 p.m., $15-$20. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., [illegible] 510-865-5060, Rhythmix.org.

Friday: A Hot Pink Feathers Dance and Carnaval Fundraiser Group [illegible] burlesque performances by members of the Hot Pink Feathers, [illegible], Lily Extranol, [illegible] Cupcake, [illegible] Lavender, La Bamba [illegible], and [illegible] [illegible]

Relevant $7-$12, $60 [illegible] a table for two and a bottle of champagne, $100 [illegible] a booth for six and two bottles of champagne. Sat., May 21, 7:30 p.m., $7-$100. Shattuck Down Low, 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1159, ShattuckDownLow.com.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

[illegible] the Night [illegible] themed Bamboo Theater and choreographed by [illegible] Fleming and [illegible], and starring [illegible], [illegible], and C.R. Lewis. Wed. at 7:30 p.m., Thurs-Sat at 8 p.m., and Sat. and Sun. at 2:30 p.m. May 20-June 24. $10-$45 [illegible] Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-943-SHOW, LesherArtsCenter.org.

[illegible] Staging of the ever-popular Broadway [illegible] musical. [illegible] John Kander, Fred Ebb, and Bob Fosse, directed by [illegible] and [illegible] with choreography by La Tonya Watts, and starring [illegible]. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m., Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, 2 p.m. Continues through June 4, $22-$30. Campbell Theatre, 636 Ward St., Martinez, 925-798-1300.

Cinderella Reinterpretation of the [illegible] fairytale, performed by [illegible] from The Oakland School for the Arts [illegible] School. Fri., May 20, 7 p.m., Sat., May 21, 2:30 & 7 p.m., Sun., May 22, 2:30 p.m., $5-$10. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (at Lake Merritt), Oakland, 510-452-2259, Fairyland.org.

[illegible] World premiere dark family and relationship comedy [illegible] by Steve Yockey, directed by [illegible] Chang, produced by [illegible] Theater, and starring Marissa Keltie, Timothy [illegible], and Seth Thygesen. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through June 11, $15-$20. [illegible] Subterranean Theater, 1834 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-464-4468.

Soul 24/8: True Tales of a Reluctant Player One-man show by [illegible] Ron Rand. Starting May 21. Sundays, 7 p.m., Saturdays, 5:30 p.m. Continues through June 11, $20-$35 sliding scale. Reserved seating $50. The [illegible], Berkeley & Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-844-4848, TheMarsh.org.

10 [illegible] Collection of original short plays, all centered around themes of identity and [illegible], devised and performed by teens in the Ragged Wing Youth Ensemble. Tue., May 24, 7 p.m., Mon., May 30, 4 & 7 p.m., Tue., May 31, 5 p.m., $2-$10. Emerson Academy, 1515 Webster St., [illegible]

Not a [illegible] Man [illegible] show [illegible] and performed by Brian Copeland. Thursdays. Continues through June 16, $20-$35 sliding scale or $50 [illegible] seat. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-4848, TheMarsh.org.

Natural Play West Coast premiere of the critically acclaimed drama [illegible] by Sara Ruhl, directed by [illegible], produced by the Actor's Continuum of Berkeley. Fridays, Saturdays, 7 p.m. Continues through May 28, $12-$15. Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-5580.

Tambourines to Glory Performance of the gospel [illegible] play by Langston Hughes. Thu., May 19, 8:10 p.m., $10-$35. Black Repertory Theater, 3201 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-652-2120.

Three Sisters Sarah Ruhl's adaptation of the family drama by Anton Chekhov [illegible] by Les [illegible], and starring David Abrams, [illegible] Carpenter, Richard Farrell, Cobe [illegible], Emily [illegible], David [illegible], and [illegible] Meggidge. With [illegible] discussions, and other [illegible], check web site for full [illegible] performances. Tuesdays-Sundays. Continues through May 22, $14.50-$73. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-647-2949, BerkeleyRep.org.

More Listings Online
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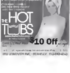
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LECTURES & LIT

Getting into the Hive Mind

Local author celebrates backyard beekeeping.

Though not a beekeeper herself, **Judith Adamson** has written a love letter to apiculture in ***Backyard Beekeepers of the Bay Area***. In the past, Adamson has researched and ghostwritten book-length life stories for her personal history business, Recollections, but had never before published a "public" book. "I was captivated by the idea of rogue beekeepers — those who kept bees in Kensington," she recalled. "Kensington is unincorporated, therefore subject to laws of Contra Costa County. Other towns in the county can vote to override the law of beekeeping being illegal. Kensington can't."

BACKYARD BEEKEEPERS OF THE BAY AREA
JUDITH ADAMSON

Her detailed but extremely approachable volume begins with the bee-ginning — solitary bees sharing air with T. Rex — and traces their evolution to the modern day, with the mysterious Colony Collapse Disorder that has inspired many a hobbyist to take the veil and get his or her own honeybee swarm on.

Adamson's book focuses on the Bay Area, whose many "tints and folds" create microclimates that, in turn, create a dizzying range of flora for bees to pollinate. The author has a "love affair with the beauty of the Bay Area, being a relative newcomer, having lived most of my life outside of New York City and then 25 years in it," she said. "I was able to tie in my awe of the beauty, the weather, all the flowers, et cetera with bees, who perpetuate the beauty in their own way." Cross-pollinate our landscape with its nature-loving, holistically minded population, and you've got an ardent array of noncommercial apiarists going to take beekeeping out of the hands of queen-killing corporations and back to urban nature, where it seems to belong just nicely, thank you very much.

Adamson interviewed 21 beekeepers from Oakland to Sebastopol, a geographically sprawling but still tightly knit bunch. "Each beekeeper led me to the next," she said. The author interviewed a retired police sergeant, three men instrumental in starting and maintaining Google's "Hiveplex," the founders of a honeybee habitat garden sanctuary, and the chef at the Fairmont Hotel. Some of these folks keep bees to calm themselves, some were visited by a swarm, grew fascinated, and found themselves accidental beekeepers; others see the apiculture as a way of connecting to the earth or to their ancestors. **Laurie Stern**, who will host Adamson's book and bee party on Saturday, May 21, in the garden of her shop **Velvet & Sweet Pea's Purrfumery** (727 Sea View Dr., El Cerrito), says she's been called the "Jewish Mother of Beekeeping" for her careful — and emotional — attention to her queens, drones, and workers. Regardless of how they came to it, or why — for the honey, the pollination, the novelty — they stick with it because of a desire to bring these necessary pollinators back from the brink of extinction and because the bees themselves are fascinating, masters of geometry and engineering, efficient workers with just enough mystery to bear the mark of something divine, or at least something puzzlingly, dazzlingly other.

The book concludes with tips on gardening for pollinators, a chapter on the uses of various beekeeping byproducts, and recipes from the apiarists profiled. At the event, fittingly, Stern will provide honey from her hives and aromatic, honey-infused beverages alongside scones, tea, and local cheeses. Other apiarists interviewed for the book, including **David Eichorn** and **Patricia Gibbons**, will be on hand as well. 3-5 p.m., free. 510-528-8040 or BackyardBeekeepersBayArea.com.

— *Stefanie Kalem*

LECTURES

Dr. Michael [illegible]: "Current Developments in the Middle East" The author and UC Berkeley professor of Middle Eastern history delivers a lecture on recent developments in the Arab world as part of the El Cerrito Democratic Club's regular meeting. With light refreshments at 6 and pizza for $4 per person. Tue., May 24, 6:30 p.m., free. El Cerrito United Methodist Church, 6830 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. 510-525-2580.

Isabel Wilkerson: "The Warmth of Other Suns" The author discusses and answers questions about her new book about the Great Migration. Wed., May 25, 7 p.m., free. African American Museum and Library at Oakland, 659 14th St., Oakland. 510-637-0200. OaklandLibrary.org.

Jim Parkinson: "A Man of Letters" The Oakland-based fonts and logo designer talks on his life and work, including his work on logos for *Esquire* and *Rolling Stone* magazines. Sat., May 21, 2-4 p.m., free. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-238-2200. MuseumCA.org.

Khalil Bendib on Democracy in the Arab World The host of "Voices of the Middle East and North Africa" on KPFA radio speaks at the Berkeley East Bay Gray Panthers General Meeting. All are welcome. Wed., May 25, 1:30 p.m., free. North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-5190.

Landlord Rights and Responsibilities Workshop covering screening tenants, choosing lease agreements, the Oakland Rent Adjustment Board, eviction, and more. Tue., May 24, 6:30-7:30 p.m., $10-$15. Alameda County Law Library, 125 12th St., Oakland.

Michael Fayer: "Absolutely Small: How Quantum Theory Explains our Everyday World" The Stanford quantum chemistry professor shares his new book, a layman's guide to quantum physics. Sat., May 21, 3-5 p.m., free. Berkeley Public Library Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Michael Shermer: "The Believing Brain" Presenting his new book, *The Believing Brain: From Ghosts and Gods to Politics and Conspiracies*. Wed., May 25, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc., Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

[illegible] Smith of Transition Berkeley: "Basic Steps to Disaster Preparedness for You, Your Family, and Neighborhood" The co-founder of the Berkeley Disaster Preparedness Neighborhood Network presents a lecture and workshop on how to prepare for a natural disaster such as an earthquake or large fire, including family disaster plans, supplies needed and how to accumulate them, household evacuation plans, turning off utilities, acting as a first responder until help arrives, and what to expect from disaster recovery in the Transition approach and in the recovery process. Wed., May 25, 7-9 p.m., free. Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2220. EcologyCenter.org.

Panel Discussion: Beyond the Wars in Mexico and Chiapas Presentation by members of the Chiapas Support Committee's Spring Delegation. Proposals will go beyond [illegible] new primary needed to autonomous communities in Chiapas. Fri., May 20, 7:30-9:30 p.m., $10 suggested donation. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-444-4824. Pages.sbcglobal.net/blms.

Patti Digh: "Simple Wisdom for a Happy Life" The blogger and self-help author shares insights from her new book, *What I Wish For You: Simple Wisdom for a Happy Life*. Thu., May 19, 7 p.m., free. Barnes & Noble, 6050 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito. 510-524-8087.

Saying What You Must Say: Spreading Your Words Workshop and discussion on "how to publish your ideas and vision of the world; share your experience and/or creativity and fantasies." Led by AgaSeng founder Nader Shalabi. Please RSVP to 510-963-3600. Thu., May 19, 2:30-5 p.m., free. AgaSeng Lake Merritt, 1800 Madison Street, Oakland. 510-963-3600. www.AgaSengLtd.com.

LITERARY EVENTS

Albany Library Great Books Discussion Group Fourth Tuesday of every month, 1:30-2:30 p.m., free. Albany Library.

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PICKS

Steven T. Jones

Writing about Burning Man is like fire-dancing about architecture: Most books on the festival — be they coffee-table photo tomes or noisy collections with forewords by Dave Eggers — fail to capture the breadth of experience available on the playa. In ***Tribes of Burning Man: How an Experimental City in the Desert is Shaping the New American Counterculture***, **Steven T. Jones** brings a journalist's eye to seven years of immersion in various burner cultures. Welcome him home on Thursday, May 19, at ***Pegasus Downtown*** (2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley). 7:30 p.m., free. 510-649-1320 or PegasusIndiebound.com. *— Stefanie Kalem*

Matthew Zapruder and Geoffrey G. O'Brien

Two Bay Area-based poets come to Uptown Oakland for **Readings @ 20**, a new series at **Mercury 20 Art Gallery** (475 25th St., Oakland). The inaugural installment on Friday, May 20, features the tender but cool poetry — full of quick cuts and soft-edged surprises — of San Francisco's **Matthew Zapruder**, and the more difficult (but no less dreamlike and rewarding) work of **Geoffrey G. O'Brien**. 7:30 p.m., $5. www.MercuryTwenty.com *— S.K.*

Tracey Seeley

In ***My Ruby Slippers: The Road Back to Kansas***, Oakland's **Tracy Seeley** looks for home in a list of thirteen addresses found written in her baby book — the Kansas dream homes that her family had lived in until she was nine, following her father's dream of movie stardom and other paternal caprices. Seeley reads from the memoir at **Books Inc.** (1760 4th St., Berkeley) on Thursday, May 19. 7 p.m., free. 510-525-7777 or BooksInc.net. *— S.K.*

Victoria Zackheim

Writer and editor **Victoria Zackheim** has made a career of curating creative nonfiction — editing collections on topics including age, illness, and infidelity. In ***He Said What? Women Write About Moments When Everything Changed***, Zackheim, J.D. Salinger paramour **Joyce Maynard**, novelist and screenwriter **Amy Ferris**, and many more ruminate on little words and phrases that, whether lobbed forcefully or tossed casually, prove life-altering. Zackheim and others yet to be announced appear at **A Great Good Place for Books** (6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland) on Friday, May 20. 7 p.m., free. 510-339-8210 or GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com *— S.K.*

Steven T. Jones

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Program B (Fri & Sat): *Nordic Modern Choreography*: Thomas Lund and Nikolaj Hübbe: *Bournonville Variations*; Jorma Elo: *Lost on Slow*, music by Vivaldi; Dane Johan Kobborg: *Alumnus*; Jorma Uotinen: *Earth*, music by Metallica and Apocalyptica

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[illegible] and Packer Reading from her new book [illegible]. Thu., May 19, 7 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

D.J. Gallagher Presenting his new book, *It's Never Too Late to Be What You Might Have Been* [illegible]. Thu., May 19, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc., 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-[illegible]. BooksInc.net.

Richardson Teen Book Club [illegible] Saturday of every month, 1-2 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5011. OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] Reading from and discussing their [illegible] books in an event sponsored by [illegible] magazine. Fri., May 20, 1 p.m., free. Books Inc., 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-[illegible]. BooksInc.net.

[illegible] Book Discussion Group A monthly [illegible] for adults. Fourth Monday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. [illegible] Public Library, [illegible] 2500 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. 510-535-5620. OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] With a tribute by [illegible]. Sat., May 21, 1:30-5:30 p.m. 510-[illegible]. [illegible] 2288 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-849-3211. [illegible].org.

John Sayles Reading from his novel *A Moment in the Sun*. Sat., May 21, 7 p.m., free. Diesel: A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

Kensington Library Book Club [illegible] Fourth Monday of every month, 7 p.m. Kensington Branch Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington. 510-524-3043.

[illegible] Reading her Copper [illegible] essay *The Currency of Love*. Sat., May 21, 8 p.m., free. Ms. [illegible] 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Matthew Zapruder and Geoffrey G. O'Brien Reading from their respective poetry collections as part of the Readings @ 20 series. Refreshments will be served. Fri., May 20, 7:30 p.m., $5. Mercury 20 Gallery, 475 25th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. MercuryTwenty.com.

[illegible] Book Discussion Group Fourth Monday of every month, 6 p.m. [illegible] Public Library, [illegible] 4805 Foothill Blvd., Oakland. 510-535-5623. OaklandLibrary.org.

OPL Golden Gate Book Discussion Group [illegible] with others in the community. Fourth Monday of every month, 6:30 p.m. Oakland Public Library, Golden Gate Branch, 5606 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5023. OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] and Kathleen [illegible] Thu., May 19, 7:30 p.m., free. [illegible] 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-[illegible].

Aaron Richardson and [illegible] Reading from their respective poetry collections [illegible]. Fri., May 20, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

[illegible] Reading from and signing their American novels, *[illegible]*. Sat., May 21, 1 p.m., free. Books Inc., 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-[illegible]. BooksInc.net.

Sharing Books We Love Club members take turns discussing a book that inspired them. Led by [illegible]. Last [illegible] day of every month, 12:30 p.m., $5 suggested donation. Unitarian Universalist [illegible] Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley. 510-525-0302. UUCB.org.

Steven T. Jones, "The Tribes of Burning Man" The Bay Guardian city editor discusses his new book, *Tribes of Burning Man: How an Experimental City in the Desert is Shaping the New American Counterculture*. Thu., May 19, 7:30 p.m., free. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-1320. PegasusBookstore.com.

Storytelling Swap [illegible] storytelling [illegible]. Sign up at 1 p.m. [illegible]. Thu., May 19, 1 p.m., free. El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante. 510-374-3991. [illegible].

Third Annual Read-and-Write-a-thon Ten hours of nonstop reading, plus [illegible], [illegible] games, raffle, food. Proceeds benefit WriterCoach Connection, which sends volunteer writing coaches into East Bay schools. Sat., May 21, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., free. [illegible] Willard Middle School, 2425 Stuart St., Berkeley. 510-644-8333.

Tracy Seeley Reading from her memoir, *My Ruby Slippers: The Road Back to Kansas*. Thu., May 19, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

Victoria Zackheim and [illegible] Reading from the new collection *He Said What? Women Write About Moments When Everything Changed*. Fri., May 20, 7 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

PUBLIC INTEREST

[illegible] Metaphysical Toastmasters Club of Berkeley Public speaking, also with a "metaphysical emphasis." First and third Thursday of every month, 6:45-8:45 p.m., free. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-0800.

Elder's Guild A group for older people interested in creating a support system and exploring conscious aging. Second and fourth Sunday of every month, 2-4 p.m., free. North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-5190.

SPOKEN WORD

Evening of Poetry and Song in Opposition to Berkeley's Proposed Anti-Sitting Law Featuring performances by [illegible]. Sponsored by the Stand Up for the Right to Sit Down Coalition and The Revolutionary Poets Brigade. Fri., May 20, 7:30 p.m., free. Art House Gallery & Cultural Center, 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-472-3170.

The [illegible] Show Comedy variety show hosted by [illegible]. Last Wednesday of every month, 7:30-10 p.m., $7. [illegible] Room, 3225 22nd St., San Francisco. 415-641-[illegible].

Storytelling Swap Storytelling open mic hosted by [illegible]. Third Thursday of every month, 7-9 p.m., free. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

Thursday at [illegible] [illegible] hosts her poetry at the Mediterraneum Caffe. An open mic follows. Thursdays, 8 p.m., free. [illegible] Mediterraneum Caffe, 2475 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-1128.

[illegible] Word Art Dance and Food History Night [illegible] Second and third Friday of every month, 6:30 p.m. [illegible] 131 [illegible], San [illegible]. 510-261-9984.

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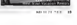

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AQUARIUM AGE

THE INCREDIBLE YOU

For the week of May 18-24, 2011

By Ralfee Finn

This week and next, the planets are aligned in "down-to-earth" formations that make the air of daily life hyper-ambitious and hyper-determined. Be prepared to make "priorities and commitments" your personal mantra, but don't be surprised if you hear plenty of other people muttering the same chant. Also be aware that not everyone you're involved with or connected to, personally or professionally, shares the same goals — no matter what they may profess. And as the next weeks unfold, that lack of shared vision could produce sudden and startling twists of fate. Because it's never possible to control the outcome of this week (or any other), be flexible rather than assuming a rigid stance. Be willing to modify your position, but don't think for a moment that your capacity to stretch is equivalent to abandoning your vision. The "priorities and commitments" mantra is the product of a much deeper current underlying the flow of the week: the potential for crystal-like clarity about what you want to accomplish and how you want to go about creating that reality.

Several positive Pluto configurations form the core of this week's powerful potential to actualize your vision. Venus, Mercury and Mars are conjunct in Taurus and each is also in a trine to Pluto in Capricorn.

(1) A Venus/Pluto trine supports powerful creative endeavors as well as the power of attraction. Use this positive force to fall madly in love with almost everyone — including you. But be aware that in some cases the underlying magnetism may be more about a power game than an open-hearted amorous adventure. Under Venus/Pluto contacts, the thrill of the chase and conquest is often more exciting than the happily ever after.

(2) A Mercury/Pluto trine is certain to facilitate sharp minds, and because everyone has access to this intellectual power-boost, quick repartee based on astute powers of observation could lead to extraordinary insights. This mental might could just as easily turn into the power to persuade or bamboozle, so be careful how you use "the force." You don't want to Obi-Wan Kenobi the wrong person or people for the wrong reason.

(3) The temptation to dominate is exacerbated by a Mars/Pluto trine, also a positive interaction that has the capacity to supply almost superhuman power, as well as off-the-chart self-confidence. When Mars and Pluto join together, we mere mortals experience nearly immortal strength, a state that can cause many of us to work or play nonstop. While moderation won't be possible, even the idea of temperance could help you to avoid overextension.

For the last several weeks, as the planets piled up in Aries, there were lots of opportunities to envision new frontiers. Now the planets are providing the physical and practical muscle to realize some of those dreams. Seize the moment, but as you do, remember to be kind, courteous, and generous to your fellow travelers who are also trying to turn their dreams into reality.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that, too.

ARIES Yes, there are tangible opportunities to improve your financial situation. Concentrate on being practical and focus your time and energy on pragmatic plans to achieve your goals.

TAURUS Own your power, allow your charismatic light to shine, and don't worry about stealing the show. Right now, that's exactly what you are meant to do and exactly what will serve you best.

GEMINI Trust your intuition, and you'll make the right moves. All you have to do is assess the data, and your innate capacity to connect the dots will allow you to make several significant decisions quickly and decisively.

CANCER You are in a much more visible position than you are used to, but overexposure doesn't have to translate into a weakened condition. Contemplate the notion that in certain instances vulnerability equals strength.

LEO You are at the beginning of a new phase of professional accomplishment, and there is no need to worry that your opportunities will fade away. So take your time and be precise, focused, and determined to make the most of this moment.

VIRGO Taking advantage of this powerful trine translates into finding an operating system that enhances your ability to blend material needs with spiritual aspirations. This synthesis is not as difficult to create as you may think — it simply means walking your talk.

LIBRA Drop to the deepest level of need, and you'll become aware of the underlying emotional themes affecting your interactions. Allow those realizations to transform co-dependent relationship patterns that keep you mired in disappointment.

SCORPIO Expect surprisingly candid conversations with partners, personal as well as professional, to have a remarkable effect on your desire to restructure and renovate old belief systems about the healing power of intimacy.

SAGITTARIUS Make the most of tangible concrete opportunities to improve your finances. Roll up your sleeves and continue to work just as hard as you have been — only this time, the results are likely to be worth the effort.

CAPRICORN Don't be surprised if you're feeling exceptionally romantic — not that you have to fall in love, to experience the thrill of this earthy, sensuous energy. You could simply continue to express yourself without hesitation.

AQUARIUS Sometimes we're drawn to material stability, and at others we're moved to create a psychological foundation strong enough to support deep exploration into what we need to feel safe. It's your choice how to spend this precious energy.

PISCES Turn the situation on its head and examine the details from an entirely different perspective. You may not find a miracle cure, but you'll certainly make a breakthrough in your approach, and that could make solving the problem much easier. ●

For More Info

Ralfee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-5264, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Ralfee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2011 by Ralfee Finn

If you're craving gloriously salty pineapple-pork sausage, Fifth Wheel is your spot. Chris Duffey

FILLING UP AT THE FIFTH WHEEL

Open since 1946, this classic San Leandro truck stop is a time machine.

By Anneli Rufus

Long ago, in a pre-Cheetos era, people had to survive from meal to meal without snacks. Before-school breakfasts had to last. Candy and Coke machines and kitchenettes did not yet augment every factory and office space. Fast-food oases did not dot all roads. At sea and in the fields, workers could not pluck PowerBars from their pockets. No one could afford to forget to eat. Planning ahead, truckers pulled into truck stops to load up.

Back then, when only doctors knew the word "cholesterol," **Fifth Wheel Food** was one of those truck stops. When Fifth Wheel Food opened in 1946, I-880 did not yet serve San Leandro, so San Leandro Boulevard was a major thoroughfare. With its huge red sign, this tiny creekside diner surely shone like a beacon through the fog, beckoning harassed and hungry souls. That sign still stands. Inside, amidst vintage wood paneling, family-size tables, ruffled curtains, and the type of counter at which cops and drifters throw back cups of black coffee in films noir, Fifth Wheel Food serves the same low-priced, hearty, home-style meals it served back then, in that era when meals had to be meals.

Chicken-fried steak comes with eggs, toast, and more. Thick-sliced ham, ditto. Patty melts come with French fries or — for the cautious — salad, fruit, or cottage cheese. Fluffy, fragrant French toast and puffy half-inch-high, six-inch-wide pancakes come with eggs and your choice of bacon, ham, hamburger, breaded chicken, or seven different types of Farmland Foods sausage (including hot link, jalapeño/cilantro, and linguiça, as a nod to San Leandro's heavily Portuguese past. Originally open around the clock, Fifth Wheel Food now serves just breakfast and lunch. But either one might well keep you stuffed until dusk.

Meatless options include salads and vegetable-cheese omelets. Hash browns are golden-crispy outside, delicate inside — and vast. Grilled-cheese sandwiches, piled high with American, Swiss, or cheddar and especially tasty on sourdough, are big melty dreams. (Their fourteen fleshy counterparts include burgers, breaded-chicken-and-cheese, and BLTs.) Meat shunners can also get substitutions, hash browns or fruit, say, instead of the standard meat on breakfast plates.

Meatless or not, meals here are plated in huge portions that truckers would love, and served quickly and kindly — usually by **Won Lee**, who was eight years old when his parents moved to the United States from Korea in 1978 and bought Fifth Wheel Food. His father had learned about this kind of cooking while working in a US military cafeteria in Korea. Won's mother still helps in the kitchen, a compact slot in an already compact restaurant. (At peak hours, expect to wait. Outside.)

As the diner's third-ever owners, the Lee family has changed very little about it — give or take a teriyaki-chicken-cheese omelet or two. What you see, feel, and eat here asserts the unpretentious authenticity that comes only with history. The vintage Norris stainless-steel milkshake machine, dishware in a ranch-brand motif, speckled red linoleum floor, framed lake-and-mountain paintings, giant wooden fork and spoon, "HERE TO SERVE YOU" sign, fourteen built-in stools along a counter lined with napkin dispensers, jelly racks, and sugar jars. It's not ersatz.

Out of the past, too, is how you are asked and then receive exactly what you want, exactly how you want it. "Traditional Breakfasts" comprise two eggs as you like them, two slices of wheat, white, sourdough, or rye toast, and your choice of hash browns, grits, fruit, cottage cheese, or rice (the owners are Korean, after all). Those eggs will be as firm or runny as you wish. Want the margarine scoop not on your piping-hot, creamy-soft grits but on the side? Cheese, butter, gravy, dressing on the side? Butter instead of margarine? Hash browns a little crispier than usual? Coming right up. "We concentrate on each dish as it's ordered," Lee said. "If a particular person likes a particular thing a particular way, we always keep that in mind."

Savoring a tall tuna-salad sandwich lavished with lots of lettuce, onions, and what she called "extra care," Irene was reminded of meals relished long ago in small-town Pennsylvania diners whose cooks were also their owners. Taffy and Ted declared their omelets fluffy and well filled.

Trendy food today tends to be light and feminized and parcels out indulgence in small showy bits: the mini-cupcake, the pork belly bun. We don't want to admit how many times, after a trendy restaurant meal, we have bought (or at least craved!) fast food en route home. At authentic diners, indulgence is such a matter of course that it is not technically indulgent. A mug of hot chocolate at Fifth Wheel Food comes topped with a heaping, whipped-cream peak. You are not asked first whether you desire whipped cream. (Because, in diner-world, who would say no?) It arrives, tremulous and towering and fluted, by default. Toast comes prebuttered. With nothing to prove and stomachs to fill, heavy and oily is just how this food is.

The de-dinerization of America might make us live longer and be less obese, but has it also left us effete and unsatisfied?

On another visit, gloriously salty-sweet pineapple-pork sausage glistened coolly alongside two big eggs fried three-quarters of the way to firm, exactly as requested. Coffee refills arrived without our having to ask. A frosty chocolate milkshake, big and rich enough for two to share, was sheer simplicity. But that's the point here, the point that is not meant to be a point: It's good because it's simple, because this is food that says: You've got a hard road ahead, so sit down. Relax. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

Fifth Wheel Food

858 San Leandro Blvd., San Leandro
510-635-7538 or FifthWheelFood.com
Cash, Visa, Mastercard, Discover
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 6 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
No reservations.

Sample Menu

Traditional Breakfast	$6.45
Grilled Cheese Sandwich	$5.25
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Tuna-Salad Sandwich	$6.25
Milkshake	$3.75

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RESTAURANTS & CAFES

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ALAMEDA

Flavors of India 1337 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-2821. (Indian/Pakistani)

Forbidden Island 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-749-0332. (Bars & Clubs/Eclectic Exotic/Hawaiian/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

Otaez Restaurant 1630 Webster St., Alameda, 510-521-9000. (Mexican) $

[illegible] 2412 Webb Ave., Alameda, 510-523-3386. (Deli) $

Speisekammer 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-522-1300. (German/Austrian) $$

ALBANY, KENSINGTON & BERKELEY SOLANO

Bua Luang 1166 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-527-8288. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

Cafelino 1387 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-6000. (Breakfast/Brunch/Coffeehouses/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

China Village 1335 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-2285. (Chinese) $-$$

Fatapple's 7525 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-526-2260. (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

Fonda 1501A Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-559-9006. (Mexican/Nuevo Latino/Organic/Sustainable/South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 1853 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5950. (Pizza) $$

Full Reviews Online

About 500 reviews searchable by food, region, and price at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

Angeline's Louisiana Kitchen 2261 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-6900. (Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Bangkok Thai [illegible] 1850 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-8483. (Thai/Burmese) $

Biryani House 2011 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-9389. (Indian/Pakistani) $

Cafe Tibet 2020 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-5051. (Tibetan) $-$$

Chaat Cafe 1902 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1431. (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

International [illegible] 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-9490. (Eclectic/Exotic/Organic/Sustainable) $

Pepe's Pizza 2516 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-9999. (Pizza/Italian/Mexican) $

Udupi Palace 1901 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-6600. (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

BERKELEY-NORTH

[illegible] 1686 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley,

RECENTLY REVIEWED

Green Papaya Deli

2517 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-835-2337. This tiny, friendly International Boulevard eatery prepares and serves some of the Bay Area's brightest, tastiest Lao cuisine: a duck larb (salad) brisk with fresh herbs and lime; intensely flavored chopped catfish steamed in banana leaves; chicken noodle soup fragrant with ginger, chilies, and coconut; sausages made of fermented raw pork and lemongrass, onions, and peppers. There are Thai specialties as well (the beef pad see ew with thick noodles is especially satisfying), and don't forget to order plenty of sticky rice, a Laotian requirement. No liquor, but the sweet, creamy soy milk and Thai iced coffee are worth ordering. $

Pepe's Pizza

2516 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-9999. Costing less than round-trip BART fare from Berkeley to San Francisco, this pizza/salad/taco buffet might be the best deal in town. The salad bar offers a vat of iceberg, another of assorted greens, and a dozen-plus crocks bearing other components. Five pizzas with meat toppings, five without, plus outrageous butter-brushed [illegible] pizza, are refreshed and replaced every fifteen minutes. A nacho machine and taco bar expand the majesty with beef, refried beans, sour cream, salsa, chopped veggies, and shredded cheese. Cold-drink machines disgorge twelve different beverages, and soft-serve ice cream comes in two flavors. A gigantic flat-screen TV airs sports constantly, which is distracting — but rugs absorb much of the sound, so you can actually relax here. The price is certainly relaxing. $

[illegible] Bistro

2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-1790. This rambling two-story bar-restaurant-nightspot still has the look and vibe of an Irish pub (the building housed Beckett's for a decade), but the entirely revamped menu features organic/sustainable California-Mediterranean options, some of them unfocused but many of them impressive. Try the delicate flatbread pizzas, the seasonal farmers' market soup, and the roasted chicken with Brussels sprouts, and don't miss the apple tart for dessert. House cocktails are on the sweet and insubstantial side; nightly DJs make conversation difficult. $$$

Luca Ristorante Italiano

2057 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-9718. Raised in Molise, southeast of Rome, Luca's owner-chef Luca Rossi cooks dishes representing many parts of his native land, from breaded-and-pan-fried chicken Milanese to yolky zabaglione to sparkly-smooth penne with vodka sauce. Lunchtime sandwiches include a juicy, multilayered, and surprisingly filling eggplant parmigiana and a sink-'em-quick sub starring leafy beef-and-pork meatballs. Customize your pasta meal all day by mixing and matching your choice of nine different sauces with six different noodle types. Order at the register, then wait to be served at a cozy wooden table that commands sweeping views of San Pablo Avenue through floor-to-ceiling windows and into the open kitchen where flames flare from Rossi's flying pans. $

Homeroom

400 40th St., Oakland, 510-597-0400. Co-owners Erin Wade and Allison Arevalo wanted to open a restaurant together — but, due to their limited experience, felt the restaurant should have a narrow focus. They settled on macaroni and cheese. At Homeroom, it comes in several different savory styles augmented with such novelties as jalapeño peppers, Vermont white Cheddar, Cypress Grove fresh goat's-milk chevre, Niman Ranch chorizo and hot dogs, and even potato chips. A vegan version is a standout, made with no cheese at all, not even vegan cheese, but a smooth melange of tofu, soy milk, soy cream, and yeast. Beer and wine pairings are suggested for each type of mac. Homeroom's loyal contingent of fans (long lines usually precede being seated) apparently don't mind the dismayingly high noise level. $

Doña Tomás

5004 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-450-0522. Temescal's venerable nouveau-Mexican/California cuisine hotspot is as fun and festive as ever, especially on the inviting back patio, where the artisan margaritas taste especially delicious. The upscale menu offerings tend to lack the zest and deep-down mindfulness one associates with classic and casual Mexican cookery, but for the most part they're perfectly tasty nonetheless. Get the lime pie for dessert. Impressive tequila list. $$$

Peripatetic Pies and a Food Pod

Plus the grand opening of Hawker Fare

By Ellen Cushing

As Oakland continues to work out its policy toward food trucks, longtime events producer **Karen Hester** and established food truckster **Elizabeth August** of **Guerilla Grub** have set up a weekly "food pod" called **Bites on Broadway** in the area outside **Oakland Technical High School** (4351 Broadway). The event, which is set to run every Friday night from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. starting June 10, seeks to expand local food-truck culture and create a neighborhood-y "block party vibe," according to Hester. "Everywhere in Europe there's a town plaza," she said, "and we're trying to recreate that in an urban setting and between three neighborhoods — Temescal, Rockridge, and the Piedmont Avenue area." Bites on Broadway will feature a rotating group of five or so trucks, including **Fist of Flour** and **Go Streatery**, plus live music, lots of grassy space, and bike racks aplenty.

The End of SadieDey's and Something New

We've got some good news/bad news out of Lower Temescal. After two-plus years, much-loved kids' "play cafe" **SadieDey's** (4210 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) will shut its doors on Friday, May 20, so that owner Sue Older-Mandeel can devote more energy to her new mobile pie business, **Sue's Sassy Pies**.

According to Older-Mandeel, the new business is a natural outgrowth of the food she was making at SadieDey's — small pies, in both sweet and savory flavors, designed to be consumed one-handed so her customers, most of which were mothers, could watch their kids and eat at the same time. The pies were so popular that she and two co-workers decided to ditch the brick-and-mortar business altogether and begin selling the pies — which have fillings like chicken gorgonzola and yam feta, all made from locally sourced ingredients — full-time, along with shave ice and other sweets, from Older-Mandeel's adorably named "pieycle." Sue's Sassy Pies is currently operating primarily as a Temescal-area delivery operation, but the pieycle had its first-ever night out at last Friday's **Oakland Indie Awards**, which Older-Mandeel said was "amazing." The **SadieDey's** space, meanwhile, is set to become an "upscale neighborhood bar" sometime next month, according to Older-Mandeel.

Table Scraps

Hawker Fare, the hotter-than-hotly anticipated Asian street food outfit from **Commis** chef **James Syhabout**, finally opened for lunch at 2300 Webster Street in Oakland on Tuesday, May 17, and is set to open for dinner before the end of the month. Construction is well underway at the new location of **Awaken Cafe**, which was pushed out of its old space on 14th Street and forced to move around the corner to Frank Ogawa Plaza. According to the cafe's web site, it's set to open sometime this summer. And, finally, the Downtown Berkeley space formerly occupied by **Amanda's** (2122 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) has a liquor license application up and appears to be on its way to becoming a taqueria of some kind. ●

510-981-1813. (Japanese/Sushi/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

The Cheese Board Pizza Collective 1512 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-3055. (Bakery/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

Chez Panisse 1517 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-5525 downstairs/510-548-5049 cafe. (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$

Corso 1788 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8003. (Italian) $$$

Ho Lien 1574 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-983-1888. (Chinese/Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Fatapple's 1346 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-526-2260. (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

BERKELEY-SOUTH

Breads of India 2448 Sacramento St., Berkeley. 510-848-7684. (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Flavors of India 3211 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-655-3480. (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

Finfine 2556 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-9161. (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

Restaurant Cafe 2454 Sacramento St., Berkeley. 510-645-1940. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

Ici 2948 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-665-6054. (Bakery/California Cuisine/Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Manpuku 2977 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-2838. (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

BERKELEY-WEST & EMERYVILLE

The Bread Project Café 1731 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4575. (Bakery/American) $

The Bread Workshop 1380 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-9140. (Bakery/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $

Bucci's 6121 Hollis St., Emeryville. 510-547-4725. (California/Berkeley/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Cafe Fanny 1603 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-524-5447. (Coffeehouses/California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $

Cafe M 1799 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-528-4400. (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$

CONCORD, MARTINEZ & PLEASANT HILL

Toscana Ristorante 2154 Salvio St., Ste. 1, Concord. 925-521-0010. (Italian) $$-$$$

EL CERRITO, RICHMOND & NORTH

Hidden City Cafe 109 Park Pl., Richmond. 510-965-0146. (American/California Cuisine) $$

The Junket 235 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito. 510-524-4022. (Deli/Gourmet/Specialty/Coffeehouses) $

Nino Angel's 6418 Potrero Ave., El Cerrito. 510-237-8475. (Steak House) $$-$$$

Pizza Garibaldi 250 23rd St., Richmond. 510-234-1952. (Mexican/Peruvian) $-$$

FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

Chaat Cafe 3554 Mowry Ave., Fremont. 510-795-1408. (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

Udupi Palace 5688 New Park Mall Rd., Newark. 510-794-8400. (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

Buffalo Bill's Brewery 1082 B St., Hayward. 510-886-9823. (American/Brewpub) $

Cafe Aspen 817 A St., Hayward. 510-248-0020. (Italian) $$

Curry Corner 27658 Mission Blvd., Hayward. 510-583-1083. (Indian/Pakistani) $

San Yang Korean Bar-B-Q Restaurant 22315 Mission Blvd., Hayward. 510-886-7788. (Barbecue/Korean) $$

OAKLAND-DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ.

Bakesale Betty 2228 Broadway, Oakland. 510-251-2100. (Bakery/Coffeehouses) $-$$

Bocanova 55 Webster St., Oakland. 510-444-1233. (California Cuisine/Caribbean/Central American/Nuevo Latino/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Hidden of India 848 Clay St., Oakland. 510-834-7688. (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

Gum Lau 304 8th St., Oakland. 510-835-3288. (Chinese/Seafood) $

Rock-A-Doodle Cafe 739 Washington St., Oakland. 510-465-5410. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable/California Cuisine/Nuevo Latino) $-$$

Disco Oakland 340 14th St., Oakland. 510-663-0211. (Bars & Clubs/Performance Venues/American/Burgers/Sandwiches/California Cuisine/New American/Southern/Soul Food/Southwestern) $$$

La Furia Chalaca 310 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4206. (Peruvian/South American) $$

Gum Kuo 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-268-1288. (Chinese) $

Huynh 301 15th St., Oakland. 510-830-5221. (Vietnamese) $$

[illegible] 1906 Embarcadero Ave., Oakland. 510-836-2517. (Seafood) $$$

Sun Hing Won Ton 386 8th St., Oakland. 510-835-8989. (Chinese) $

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Drinking on the Edge of Town

Rock Wall Wine Company opens a tasting room at Alameda Point.

When six young olive trees recently left the nursery to find new life at the gates of a winery, their dreams, it seemed, were coming true. For what olive tree doesn't aspire to set roots in the wine country among rolling hills and elegant rows of vines? But life has thrown these young trees a mean curveball; they now stand on the windswept asphalt acres of Alameda Point, at the gates of the newest tasting room in town.

The trees will get used to it, for the scenery surrounding **Rock Wall Wine Company** (2301 Monarch St., Ste. 300, Alameda) is surprisingly beautiful in a post-apocalyptic, zombie-film sort of way. To the east, it's all abandoned streets and warehouses, while an abandoned runway spans northward, with San Francisco's skyscrapers, the Bay Bridge, and Mount Tamalpais setting the skyline to the west. It may be the coolest wine country visit in the Bay Area — and visitors can take it all in from the newly opened tasting room.

Rock Wall Wine Company itself is young, begotten in 2008 by the next generation of the Rosenblum family, which operated the family's namesake Alameda winery for decades until selling it to **Diageo** three years ago. **Shauna Rosenblum**, daughter of **Kent Rosenblum**, runs the show at Rock Wall, along with assistant winemaker **Chelsea Blackburn**. Situated in Hangar 24, next door to **Hangar One Vodka**, Rock Wall's space is shared by seven other small wineries.

In the tasting room, Rock Wall's wines dominate the offered flights. These run $10 to $15, with tasting fees waived with any purchase exceeding $20 per person. During a recent visit, we tasted fifteen wines; among the whites, we felt the Chardonnays stole the show. The 2009 Russian River Valley Reserve comes from the only vineyard the Rosenblum family owns. The wine is mildly fruity, with deep flavors of butter, cream, and toasted wood. The 2009 Santa Lucia Highlands Chardonnay, meanwhile, makes for a striking side-by-side varietal comparison — a wine of glowing fruit character.

Among the Zinfandels, the 2009 Monte Rosso Vineyard smells like honeycomb and sage and tastes of raspberry, chocolate, and coffee. The 2008 Jesse's Vineyard is nutty, earthy, and smoky — if cowboys didn't drink whiskey, this might be their drink of choice. The 2009 Obsidian — a half-and-half blend of Zin and Petite Sirah — is zesty and alive, crisp, a bit tart, heavy on the raspberry notes, with a splash of cola.

Go slow. Most of the wines here run between 14 and 16 percent alcohol by volume, so pace yourself if you intend to finish with the dessert wines. These include dazzling late-harvest Riesling and Sauvignon Blanc and a port-style Zinfandel.

On your way out, be nice to the olive trees. The brisk wind is whipping the poor things, and they'll never know the beauty of a hillside of wildflowers until they bear fruit. But no need to tell them that. Just say, "Welcome to wine country."

— *Alastair Bland*

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

[illegible] Part of the [illegible] series. Sat., May 21, 12-2 p.m. free. [illegible], Oakland.

CALICO's [illegible] at a Time Benefit [illegible] All proceeds go toward [illegible] services for abused children. Sat., May 21, 7 p.m.-midnight, $15-$100. Lake Chalet, 1520 Lakeside Dr., Oakland. 510-208-5253. TheLakeChalet.com.

Cooks, Books, [illegible] The authors of *The Fearless Baker* [illegible] in conversation with [illegible], food and wine writer for the Bay Area News Group. Tue., May 24, 6-7:30 p.m. free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

[illegible] Open House [illegible] Sat., May 21 [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Wed., May 25 [illegible] Berkeley. [illegible]

Oakland, [illegible] Panel discussion exploring the trends and challenges of the modern deli. Featuring Peter Levitt of Saul's, [illegible] of Brooklyn's Mile End Deli, [illegible] of Portland's Kenny & Zuke's [illegible] Tue., May 31, 6 p.m., $10. Saul's Restaurant and Delicatessen, 1475 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-3354. SaulsDeli.com.

Tour de Farmers Bike tour and tasting, led by [illegible]. Sun., May 22, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. $15-$45 sliding scale. College and Telegraph Avenues, intersection, Oakland.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market [illegible]

[illegible] Farmers' Market [illegible]

[illegible] Market [illegible]

Oakland [illegible] Farmers' Market [illegible] Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland, 747 52nd St., Oakland.

Emeryville Farmers' Market [illegible] Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Emeryville City Hall, 1333 Park Ave., Emeryville.

[illegible] Community Farmers [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] Farmers' Market [illegible]

Grand Lake Farmers' Market Saturdays, [illegible] Grand Ave. and Lakepark, Oakland. [illegible]

Hayward City Hall Farmers' Market [illegible] Saturdays, [illegible]

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market [illegible] Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland [illegible] Market [illegible] Oakland.

Kensington Farmers' Market [illegible] Kensington.

Laurel [illegible] Farmers' Market [illegible] MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market [illegible] Berkeley.

[illegible] Market [illegible] Oakland.

Richmond Certified Farmers' Market [illegible] Richmond.

Richmond Farmer's Market [illegible] Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. & Green Ave., Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' [illegible] [illegible] Berkeley.

[illegible] Farmers' Market [illegible] Oakland.

[illegible] Farmers' Market [illegible] Berkeley.

R&C

OAKLAND EAST

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] (Mexican) $

OAKLAND-PIEDMONT,

GRAND LAKE & EAST

[illegible] [illegible] Grand Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Grand Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Piedmont Ave., [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Grand Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Piedmont Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] La Salle Ave., [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Grand Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

[illegible] [illegible] College Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] College Ave., Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] College Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Claremont Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] College Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] College Ave., Oakland. [illegible] (Pizza) [illegible]

OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

[illegible] [illegible] Telegraph Ave., [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Telegraph Ave., [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] 40th St., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

WALNUT CREEK

[illegible] [illegible] N. Main St., Walnut Creek. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Locust St., Walnut Creek. [illegible] (Vietnamese) $$

Deli Summit

Is the traditional Jewish deli becoming obsolete, or is it simply evolving? At the Jewish Community Center of the East Bay (1414 Walnut St., Berkeley) on Thursday, May 19, a Deli Summit brings together movers and shakers from Saul's, Mile End Deli, Wise Sons Deli, and elsewhere for a panel discussion on the [illegible] the ever-thriving comfort-food institution known for its egg creams, knishes, and huge pastrami sandwiches. Author Joan Nathan moderates. 7 p.m., $10-$15. SaulsDeli.com/Deli/PressEvents

— *Anneli Rufus*

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CLASSICS EVISCERATED

Takashi Miike's *13 Assassins* is a bloody fine epic.

By Kelly Vance

13 Assassins shows Takashi Miike in full epic mode.

Takashi Miike — is he one of Japan's most provocative filmmakers, or just an opportunistic creator of shock spectacles who managed to ride the audience's taste for graphic violence to a successful, if somewhat dubious, career?

We only pose that question because much of the publicity for Miike's latest, the samurai adventure ***13 Assassins***, dwells on the film's climactic sword fight, a 45-minute marathon of slice 'n' dice seemingly intended to put the fifty-year-old director once more at the forefront of a certain category of top-this cinematic mayhem vendors. It's only fair to question the ultra-prolific Miike's motives at this stage of his career. That final battle royale is indeed a whopper. On closer inspection, however, the deeper we go into *13 Assassins* the more rewarding it becomes.

Ostensibly a remake of **Eiichi Kudo**'s 1963 film ***Jūsan-nin no shikaku***, Miike's version takes us to the year 1844, in which the chaotic, incessant warfare of Japan's feudal era has long since given way to the uneasy central control and iron-fisted cruelty of the Tokugawa Shogunate. One member of the elite in particular, Lord Naritsugu Matsudaira (played by **Gorō Inagaki** in a shower of sadistic vanity), the shogun's younger brother, has abused his power atrociously — raping, mutilating, and killing unfortunate commoners to such an extent that even his subordinates are ashamed to be associated with him. His actions are disgracing the government.

It is decided by a rival official of the Shogunate that Naritsugu should be eliminated with extreme prejudice, and that one Shinzaemon Shimada (**Kōji Yakusho**), a samurai of integrity, should assemble a strike force to do the job. Shimada rounds up a stalwart band of killers to ambush Naritsugu and his Akashi clan retinue as they pass through a village en route to the capital, Edo (now Tokyo). Thirteen heroic men, whose motto apparently is "He who values his life dies a dog's death," against 200 heavily armed soldiers. Standard odds for a *chanbara* (sword fight) movie.

Of course, with Miike we hardly expect a standard genre flick. In his wide-ranging filmography — more than eighty titles since 1991, when he began as a maker of "V-Cinema" direct-to-video features — are numerous yakuza actioners, horror films (including his 1999 international breakout ***Audition***), teenage crime programmers, youth market fantasies, cross-cultural dramas, anime adaptations, musical comedies, at least one nouveau western (***Sukiyaki Western Django***), and even the relatively arty adaptation of a stage play, ***Demon Pond***; all of them inflected with Miike's studiously perverse point of view and his exquisite sense of timing. The director chases down genres with the zeal of a fox hound, and once he catches them he works them over thoroughly. Grotesque violence and double-edged absurdity run wild, but not necessarily in each and every film.

13 Assassins

Directed by Takashi Miike. With Kōji Yakusho and Gorō Inagaki. Opens Friday.

In *Izo* (2004), last seen here at the **San Francisco International Film Festival** (Miike is a worldwide festival favorite), a captured Tokugawa-era samurai is crucified and while hanging on the cross, somehow magically transports himself to contemporary Tokyo, where he takes up his sword to settle old scores with the descendants of the people he was fighting against in the first place. That is, there's a smidgeon of social commentary in a bucket of blood.

We think back to *Izo* while *13 Assassins* is revving up to speed in its first half. The setup is more or less the same as in any *jidaigeki* period film — a few men of integrity stand up to an army of villainous swine — but we keep waiting for something preposterous to happen. Here's a hint that won't constitute much of a plot spoiler: Miike plays the movie straight, as sincere as any samurai pic by **Akira Kurosawa**, **Hiroshi Inagaki**, **Kihachi Okamoto**, or **Masahiro Shinoda**. But he does it his way.

Lord Naritsugu is a glib fiend who delights in humiliating people, and his crimes involve hideous treatment of women and children — the sight of one of his female victims is one you'll not soon forget. Ranged against him and his troops is a classic assemblage of honorable types that might have been lifted en masse from *Seven Samurai*: Hirayama, a ronin (masterless samurai) from Shimada's dojo, played by Tsuyoshi Ihara from *Letters from Iwo Jima*; the young samurai Hioki (**Sosuke Takaoka**); the rugged Saheita Kuranaga (action vet **Hiroki Matsukata**); and Shimada's nephew Shinrokuro (teen heartthrob **Takayuki Yamada**). The Toshiro Mifune comic relief/trickster fool slot is filled by actor **Yūsuke Iseya** as Koyata Kiga, a ragged mountain man whose ear has been burned off but not his infectious smile. Every time he gets killed he springs back to life.

Aside from the pitiful victims, the only woman character that's even slightly developed is Shinrokuro's wife, Tsuya, played by **Kazue Fukiishi**, who worked for Miike in the supernatural thriller ***One Missed Call***. Shinrokuro and Tsuya obviously have a life together outside the parameters of this samurai scenario, but all that gets tossed away in a curiously moving scene in which Shinrokuro casually walks out the door to fight the impossible battle. It's a man's world, Miike seems to be telling us — not without a certain irony from a director frequently accused of using his female characters for bizarre shock value.

More pleasingly puzzling than any of these characters is the figure of Shinzaemon Shimada himself, equal parts loyal vassal and fierce avenger. Actor Yakusho is probably best known to American audiences as a typically mild-mannered light leading man in such films as *Shall We Dance?* and *Babel*, although he hit his international stride at the forefront of director **Kiyoshi Kurosawa**'s stock company in *Cure*, *Séance*, *Doppelganger*, and *Tokyo Sonata*, among others.

In Miike's hands Yakusho is reborn as a sword-swinging warrior — his role as a reluctant combatant in **Kon Ichikawa**'s *Dora-Heita* notwithstanding. Working from a screenplay by writer **Daisuke Tengan** (son of filmmaker **Shohei Imamura**) adapted from the original 1963 script by **Kaneo Ikegami**, Miike sculpts Shimada as a forceful but disciplined man who reacts to events according to a strict code. Samurai exist to serve, and to serve is to fight. In that respect, *13 Assassins* shows Takashi Miike in full epic mode. The grand finale battle is an exhilarating extension of every samurai movie ever made, but then it keeps going and going from pinnacle to grisly pinnacle until all possibilities are exhausted. Too much of a good thing — that's Miike's trademark. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrea Gronvall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com

OPENING

13 Assassins The climactic 45-minute battle sequence is a bloody whopper, but there's more to Takashi Miike's remake of the 1963 samurai mini-epic of the same name than just graphic carnage. The cast is superb, topped by actor Koji Yakusho (*Shall We Dance?*) playing against type as a ferociously loyal retainer dispatched to trap a depraved official of the shogunate (villainous Goro Inagaki) and his men in a village en route to Edo. Of course Miike doesn't skimp on the stomach-turning grotesqueries — they're what made him famous, although this [illegible]. It further evidence that the prolific, genre-sampling Miike (*Audition*, [illegible], *Sukiyaki Western Django*) yearns to make [illegible] spectacle-filled epics in the Akira Kurosawa mold. Also swinging swords: Tsuyoshi Ihara, [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible]. Recommended. (R) [illegible]

L'Amour Fou We don't learn much about Yves Saint Laurent the man in this worshipful documentary bio. [illegible] that he lived for his work, loved and collected beautiful art, and [illegible] with drugs and alcohol to [illegible] his depression. Filmmaker Pierre Thoretton's doc is pretty much the officially sanctioned bio story of the influential Parisian fashion designer and thus [illegible] narrative, including a running commentary by YSL's longtime companion and business partner Pierre Bergé. But we can't help feeling a bit [illegible]. More subjective point of view is called for. (1:38 min.) (K.V.) AL

Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides Fourth installment of the amusement park ride-turned-megafranchise, with Johnny Depp reprising his role as Captain Jack Sparrow. This time on a hunt for the fountain of youth. Directed by Rob Marshall, [illegible] and Terry Rossio; also starring Penelope Cruz and Geoffrey Rush. [illegible]

The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls There's something fresh, old-fashioned, and genuinely heart-warming about Lynda and Jools Topp, singing comedians, twin [illegible] from a New Zealand farm who also happen to be that country's best known show-biz lesbians, for lesbian and gay rights and civil rights causes in general. Their friend, singer Billy Bragg, describes the Topps as an "anarchist variety act," but with their portable [illegible] characters, and [illegible] songs they're more the [illegible] lesbian Smothers Brothers. Did we mention that they love animals, too? Directed by Leanne Pooley. (84 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

ONGOING

African Cats Nature doc about [illegible] African [illegible] specifically cheetahs and lions in the savanna. Directed by Alastair Fothergill and Keith Scholey and narrated by Samuel L. Jackson. [illegible]

The Beaver Walter Black has been a deadly [illegible] and father, and so his self-prescribed [illegible] is to go beaver with a puppet [illegible]

Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule. **AL** = Landmark Albany, **ATC** = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex, **BC** = Brenden Concord, **BB** = [illegible] Blackhawk, **BP** = Brenden Pittsburg, **BS** = AMC Bay Street, **CA** = Landmark California, **CAPH** = Cinemark Pleasant Hill, [illegible] = [illegible], **CCC** = Contra Costa Cinemas, **CEPH** = Century Pleasant Hill, [illegible] = [illegible], **CHY** = Century Hayward, [illegible] = Cinedome Newark, [illegible] = Regal Crow Canyon, [illegible] = [illegible], **CUC** = Century Union City, [illegible] = [illegible], **DV** = AMC Deer Valley, [illegible] = Grand Lake, [illegible] = [illegible], **NB** = [illegible], [illegible] = [illegible], **PFA** = Pacific Film Archive, **PM** = Landmark Piedmont, [illegible] = [illegible], [illegible] = [illegible], [illegible] = Regal Hacienda, [illegible] = [illegible] Theater, [illegible] = Landmark Shattuck, **UAB** = UA Berkeley, **UAEB** = UA Emery Bay, **V** = Vine, **WWS** = West Wind [illegible]

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M&T

on the hand [illegible] outside the "voice" of the puppet. It's also a sack-cloth-and-ashes ordeal for us: the Mel Gibson (as depressed [illegible] Walter) and Jodie Foster (as his long-suffering wife) [illegible] nobody's idea of a [illegible] from the start. There's a [illegible] coming-of-age story there with [illegible] older son [illegible], but [illegible] gets in the way. It's his hands like Jerry Lewis or Charlie Sheen, the figure of [illegible] is immediately [illegible] — ultimately the [illegible] of a distraction from the fragile TV-style family story by [illegible] Kyle Killen (Lone Star). Jennifer Lawrence costars. Directed by Foster. (91 min.) (KV)CAPM, S

Bill Cunningham New York The 80+ photographer invented the seen-on-the-street fashion [illegible] with his New York Times column "On the Street," and in delightful documentary [illegible] Bill's world [illegible] bicycle-and-snapshot working style at his [illegible] apartment at Carnegie Hall to the [illegible] of Anna Wintour and Tom Wolfe — among many talking heads who revere Cunningham's [illegible] pursuit of beauty. [illegible] the [illegible] that [illegible] younger men, the [illegible] the impression that's what he lives for. [illegible] directed and shot by Richard Press. (84 min.) (KV)B

Bridesmaids The [illegible] Saturday Night Live player Kristen Wiig finally gets the [illegible] vehicle she deserves. [illegible] comedy was [illegible] by Judd Apatow (The 40-Year-Old Virgin, [illegible]) and [illegible] transposes the "[illegible]" formula to the world of [illegible]. Wiig plays a [illegible] whose lifelong friendship [illegible] Maya Rudolph is threatened when the world gets engaged and [illegible] the bridesmaids [illegible] at the [illegible] of honor. The gags are [illegible] yet they spring from a genuinely female perspective, [illegible] inside a [illegible] the movie maintains a [illegible] between the sentimental-

ity of [illegible] and the cruelty of [illegible]. [illegible] Paul Feig, [illegible] of the cult TV series Freaks and Geeks. Directed [illegible] Jon Hamm, and, in her last screen role, Jill Clayburgh. (125 min.) [illegible] (BPM CH CUC CN. BH CCC GE S CRC [illegible])

Cave of Forgotten Dreams A hidden, [illegible] French cave lined with 35,000-year-old [illegible] of horses, bisons, lions, panthers, rhinoceros, [illegible] and [illegible] movements is the ideal place for one of Werner Herzog's patented [illegible] and Herzog's documentary on the [illegible] Cave of Chauvet-Pont-d'Arc is a true [illegible] in the [illegible]. These are the [illegible] of the world [illegible] at a time when half of Western [illegible] was [illegible] by an [illegible] glacier, and yet the artists had the time and [illegible] of [illegible] images of Paleolithic [illegible] and [illegible] among the [illegible] — all of [illegible] the filmmaker to [illegible] of rapture, [illegible] by his use of 3-D. [illegible] by Herzog, [illegible] by Judith Thurman (90 min.) (KV)CVC S

The Conspirator A Civil War drama, in 2011. [illegible] Robert Redford and the American Film Company [illegible] the case of Mary Surratt (well played by [illegible] Wright), the Washington, D.C. [illegible] of conspiring in the [illegible] of President Abraham Lincoln in 1865. The [illegible] Surratt, a Confederate [illegible] and [illegible] confidante of the [illegible] John Wilkes Booth (Toby Kebbell), is also a Roman Catholic, [illegible] as [illegible] a [illegible] military [illegible] and is the classic [illegible] — a point not lost on the court-appointed attorney (James McAvoy, [illegible]) who defends her. Their relationship [illegible] should have been [illegible] emotional [illegible] comes out a bit flat. Meanwhile actors Kevin Kline, Danny [illegible] Tom Wilkinson, and Colm Meaney [illegible] as the [illegible] government [illegible] objective is to hang the culprits as quickly as possible and [illegible] world [illegible] an allegory for [illegible] and the war on ter-

ror? Perhaps. But this old-fashioned history drama is fully capable of standing alone. Thoughtful screenplay by James D. Solomon, adapted from a story he wrote with Gregory Bernstein. (123 min.) (KV)[illegible]

Dinosaurs Alive! From the Triassic to the Cretaceous, dinosaurs are [illegible] by paleontologists and portrayed in realistic CGI. CSC

The Double Hour Italian romantic thriller [illegible] an unlikely [illegible] (Filippo Timi) also falls for a Slovenian [illegible] also a [illegible] past (Kseniya Rappoport). In Italian with subtitles. Directed by Giuseppe Capotondi and [illegible] by [illegible] Fabbri, Ludovica Rampoldi, [illegible] (100 min.) [illegible]

Everything Must Go Friends no more, fired from his job, locked out of his house by his [illegible] wife, with all his possessions sitting on his sidewalk front lawn, Will Ferrell (for the playing field to himself in this adaptation of a Raymond Carver short story. So then why do we look at [illegible] every [illegible]? It's a [illegible] with a [illegible]. There's never the slightest doubt that Ferrell's [illegible] Nick Halsey is going to come [illegible] a winner — not with the [illegible] of Rebecca Hall, Christopher [illegible] and Laura Dern around. [illegible] Dan Rush [illegible]. Directed by the [illegible] and Robert [illegible] they should sell tickets for this today at yard [illegible]. (96 min.) (KV)CEPM, CA, PM

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Fast Five Fifth installment of the street-racing franchise, with all the [illegible] going [illegible] against the backdrop of Rio this time. Directed by Justin Lin; written by Chris Morgan; and starring Paul Walker, Vin Diesel, and Jordana Brewster. (130 min.) [illegible] BP CVC CB, CEPH CH, CUC, CN. BH, BCC, BH, JL. [illegible]

Forks Over Knives Yet another food doc, this time focused on the health [illegible] of a natural vegan diet, [illegible] and [illegible] by Lee Fulkerson, with appearances by [illegible] and [illegible]. (90 min.) [illegible]

Hanna Not the first [illegible] spy adventure, but one of the best. [illegible] teenager Hanna (Saoirse Ronan in a [illegible] performance) has been raised in a remote [illegible] by her father (Eric Bana) to be the ultimate "rogue asset," and she certainly sends the other spooks bonkers — especially CIA harpy Cate Blanchett, who [illegible] to kill her. But she [illegible] all the [illegible] without [illegible] Joe Wright's [illegible] fairytale mood, captured in the snowy [illegible] of [illegible] the [illegible] desert, and in a [illegible] Grimm theme park in Berlin. [illegible] pulls it off as if she were born to it, with nifty character playing by Tom Hollander and [illegible]. Screenplay by Seth Lochhead and David Farr, from Lochhead's story. Imaginative direction by Wright (The [illegible], Atonement, Pride and Prejudice), who only borrows what is strictly necessary from the films of Tom Tykwer. (111 min.) (KV)[illegible]

Hesher Lonely kid gets mentored by stoner trash [illegible]. Director Spencer Susser also helps [illegible] and [illegible] David [illegible] (Animal Kingdom), [illegible] the story of eleven-year-old T.J. (Devin Brochu) and his new [illegible] Hesher (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) who helps the kid get over the death of his mother, the disintegration of his family, and [illegible] by fighting up a [illegible]. [illegible] of the [illegible] Natalie Portman as T.J.'s other [illegible]. Rainn Wilson as his grief-paralyzed dad. [illegible] as the [illegible] very much, although Piper Laurie [illegible] as T.J.'s [illegible] grandma. Gordon-Levitt, [illegible] possibly [illegible] in films like Inception, gives his [illegible] as [illegible]. [illegible] a 21st-century [illegible] of the [illegible] from Jean Renoir's Boudu Saved from Drowning. (100 min.) (KV)CA

Hoodwinked Too! Hood vs. Evil [illegible] Hayden Panettiere as Red Riding Hood, who now [illegible] with the Wolf to [illegible] Hansel and Gretel. Directed by Mike Disa, [illegible] by Cory Edwards, Todd Edwards, and Tony Leech; also starring Glenn Close. (86 min.) CB CH, BH, [illegible]

Hop Live-action, CGI update of Easter Bunny story. [illegible] the Bunny's teenaged son [illegible] soon to be [illegible] at the family business — [illegible] In a coming-of-age story as [illegible] and Walt to [illegible] written by Tim Hill; written by Cinco Paul, Brian Lynch, and Ken Daurio; and starring Russell Brand, James Marsden, Kaley Cuoco, and Hank Azaria. [illegible]

I Am Interview-based [illegible] story in [illegible] Tom Shadyac [illegible]. [illegible] world leaders and the like [illegible] what they believe the biggest problems facing the world today are, and how to fix them. Featuring [illegible] Tutu, [illegible] Chomsky, and many others. (76 min.) [illegible]

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takes Mouawad shows what happens when [illegible] and [illegible] Marwan, a given pair of Montreal twins (Mélissa Désormeaux-Poulin and Maxim Gaudette), go to an unnamed Middle East country (a Lebanon-like [illegible]) to [illegible] what happened to their late mother Nawal (Lubna Azabal, in a magnetic performance) during that country's brutal civil war in the 1970s. The sorrow-drenched scenario is the work of playwright Wajdi Mouawad, brilliantly adapted by director Denis Villeneuve and set in nightmarish backward locations where we can feel the hot violence of the air in the bus ride to a crowded market. Even Montreal looks sinister. Featuring Rémy Girard and Abdelghafour Elaaziz. (130 min.) [illegible]

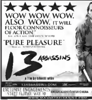
Jane Eyre Cary Joji Fukunaga modulates the proper voice to the much-filmed English lit favorite. His Jane is dark, gothic, and Victorian: the bleak [illegible] the somewhat sinister [illegible] of our dreams [illegible] played by [illegible] Wasikowska and his elusive beloved, Rochester (Michael Fassbender) [illegible] at Thornfield Hall, the house of secrets. Director Fukunaga (Sin Nombre) and screenplay adapter Moira Buffini (Tamara Drewe) imagine Jane Eyre as a willful, intelligent, decently [illegible] young woman who is aware that she must play the cards that she's been dealt very [illegible] about her misfortune later. And Wasikowska [illegible]. The large cast of scrumptious players adds to the mood: Sally Hawkins, Judi Dench, Jamie Bell, Freya Parks, Simon McBurney, Imogen Poots, and Valentina Cervi. (119 min.) [illegible]

Jumping the Broom Romantic comedy about two families from disparate social strata who come together for a wedding. Directed by Salim Akil; written by Arlene Gibbs and Elizabeth Hunter; and starring Laz Alonso, Paula Patton, Tasha Smith, Loretta Devine, and Megan Good. [illegible]

Limitless Whereas [illegible] Neil Burger has emerged as one of the best Hollywood directors in the doldrums, and the irony of this accomplishment is that his thrillers (Interview With the Assassin, The Illusionist) resort to very little [illegible] themselves: in an era of loud, frantic [illegible] methods [illegible], Burger builds suspense the old-fashioned way, through meticulously clean and [illegible] plotting. The protagonist [illegible] Eddie (Bradley Cooper of The Hangover) who gets his hands on a neuro-enhancing [illegible] drug and begins to invest 100 percent of his brain capacity after [illegible], he turns his dazzling mental powers to the stock market and [illegible] a scheming corporate titan (Robert De Niro). Some might roll and [illegible] a step backward after Burger's previous [illegible] The Lucky Ones. But as a stylish intrigue it's hard to beat. With Abbie Cornish. (97 min.) [illegible]

The Lincoln Lawyer Well-written, appropriately sour modern crime story shows what happens when a wheeling-dealing Los Angeles criminal-case attorney (Matthew McConaughey) [illegible] got talked into defending a diabolical [illegible] a rich, arrogant playboy (Ryan Phillippe) charged with raping and beating a prostitute. Michael Connelly's novel is in good hands. Director Brad Furman (The Take) and screenwriter John Romano [illegible] the LA [illegible] vibe [illegible] with slick [illegible] performances by a large cast of [illegible], including William H. Macy, Josh Lucas, Frances Fisher, Bob Gunton, John Leguizamo, and Marisa Tomei as the lawyer's ex-wife. (119 min.) [illegible]

Meek's Cutoff Filmmaker Kelly Reichardt throws a [illegible] over the traditional conventions of the [illegible] western with this [illegible] of a lost party of white settlers wandering in the high desert, circa 1845. We [illegible] at first, but the mood takes hold and continues to gnaw at us long after we leave the theater. The impressive cast — Michelle Williams, Bruce Greenwood, Will Patton, Shirley Henderson, Paul Dano, Zoe Kazan, and stunt man Rod Rondeaux as a [illegible] Native — spends much of its time trudging the rocky terrain with little to say. But Reichardt and her writing partner Jon Raymond (Old Joy, Wendy and Lucy) [illegible]. The [illegible] Williams, as a [illegible] wife [illegible] and Rondeaux a Cayuse brave makes this rewarding not only for western aficionados, but for those who admired the scope of the director's



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"Oregon Trilogy" of which this is the final piece. Recommended. (104 min.) (K.V.)CAPM, S

Mysteries of Egypt National Geographic and a team of scientists reveal the architecture, legends, history — and most importantly, mysteries — of ancient Egyptian civilization.CSC

Of Gods and Men Right in the roiling lines of Algeria in the mid-1990s, a group of French Roman Catholic monks lives the monastic life — studying, praying, studying, and providing medical care for people in the nearby village. But their isolation is threatened by a band of anti-government militants who see them as part of the "organized plundering" of French colonialism. Director Xavier Beauvois (Le Petit Lieutenant) keeps the details hushed and superlative as the monks themselves, with a sagely performance by veteran actor Michael Lonsdale as Brother Luc. Screenplay by Etienne Comar, adapted by Beauvois. Lambert Wilson stars as Brother Christian. (122 min.) (K.V.)ACE

Potiche Comfy old chair of a comedy takes us back to the early days of women's liberation — 1977 France, where well-to-do housewife Suzanne Pujol (Catherine Deneuve) is obliged to take control of the family umbrella factory when her husband (dependable Fabrice Luchini) has a heart attack and the company's labor troubles. Maternity Suzanne excels at the job, despite Bertrand, of the presence of her former lover Maurice Babin (an enormous Gérard Depardieu), now the town's communist mayor and chief labor organizer. François Ozon is clearly having fun with the affable farce — adapted by Ozon from a stage play by Pierre Barillet and Jean-Pierre Grédy — but it's the veteran actors who drive the vehicle. Bertrand, Luchini, and the rest form the well oiled machine. Also with Jérémie Renier, Judith Godrèche and Sergi Lopez. (103 min.) (K.V.)ACE, V

Priest The hero of this fantasy action flick is a Catholic priest (Paul Bettany) who battles vampires, battles them with ninja moves, and rips them apart with blades (he's like a secret [illegible] but then [illegible]). Adapted from a Japanese graphic novel series, the story opens in a futuristic blue-gray [illegible] Wasteland City, a Blade Runner-esque whose inhabitants confess their sins to computer monitors projecting an image of a papal Big Brother (who else but Christopher Plummer). From there the action shifts to a white-gray desert with [illegible] where the renegade priest searches for the bloodsucker who killed his sister and kidnapped his young niece. This is mildly entertaining for its cheesy sacrilege (crucifixes that turn into throwing stars, etc). [illegible] The movie is about as surprising to watch as the Dreams of the Christ. Scott Stewart directed. (87 min.) (LJ) BH, BP CWC, CE CEPH, CH, CUC, CN, BH, CCC, CRC, RR, JL, UA3

L'amour fou, a documentary about designer Yves Saint Laurent, opens this week.

The Princess of Montpensier Bertrand Tavernier gives his version of France's 16th-century Wars of Religion — Catholics vs. Huguenots — the raging, non-wobbling of sweet swashbuckling, hot-blooded romance, drawing-room intrigue and swashbuckling to make that era irresistible. Even though she's married off by her father to an unsmiling groom (Grégoire Leprince-Ringuet), the eponymous teenage princess (gorgeous Mélanie Thierry) is capable of attracting the only a rugged warrior duke (Gaspard Ulliel) and the King's randy brother (Raphaël Personnaz) — all the while being watched over by her husband's trusty lieutenant (Lambert Wilson). Veteran Tavernier (Beatrice, 'Round Midnight, Coup de Torchon) might have been content to enhance the princess in a Catholic romance, but both Thierry and Wilson are given the chance to lend their characters more dimension — and they gleefully take it. Intelligent screenplay by Jean Cosmos, François-Olivier Rousseau and Tavernier, adapted from the period novel by Madame de la Fayette. (139 min.) (K.V.)ACE

Prom Teen romantic comedy following a group of high-schoolers' romantic lives in the lead-up to prom. Directed by Joe Nussbaum. Written by Katie Wech. Starring Aimee Teegarden, Thomas McDonell and DeVaughn Nixon.CSC, BH, UAEB

Queen to Play The fabulous Sandrine Bonnaire with a little chocolate acting help from the dependable Kevin Kline transforms a routine feelgood scenario into a thing of beauty. Bonnaire stars as Hélène, a room-cleaning woman whose modest ambition to learn the game of chess finds a pupil in her employer, a lonely expatriate played by Kline. Director/screenwriter Caroline Bottaro populates the picturesque Corsican setting with sympathetic souls, especially Francis Renaud and Alexandra Gentil as Hélène's husband and daughter. But it's the radiant Bonnaire who carries the film. Based on the novel La Joueuse d'échecs by Bertina Henrichs. This is Kline's first movie in French. (97 min.) (K.V.)E

Rio Computer-animated family film about a naive Minnesotan macaw on a trip to Brazil. Directed by Carlos Saldanha, written by Saldanha, Don Rhymer, Joshua Sternin, and Jeffrey Ventimilia, starring the voices of Jesse Eisenberg, Anne Hathaway and George Lopez. (96 min.) BP, CWC, CE, CEPH, CH, CUC, CN, BH, CCC, CRC, BH, JL, RCE, BAB, UAEB

[illegible] The story of everyone's favorite burning ball of gas.CSC

Something Borrowed A genial vibe and moderately funny script prevail over the sort of soppy music cues and white-bread teenage that have become the guiding norm in Hollywood rom-coms. Adapted from the chick-lit best seller by Emily Giffin, this centers on a sweet and dutiful Manhattan attorney (Ginnifer Goodwin) who stumbles into a passionate affair with the handsome, wealthy Dex (Colin Egglesfield) of her alpha-female buddy (Kate Hudson). Keeping this hokum under wraps generates quite a few laughs as the pushy bride-to-be books a series of weekend getaways in the Hamptons, though

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The fourth installment of *Pirates of the Caribbean – On Stranger Tides* – stars Johnny Depp and Penelope Cruz.

director Luke Greenfield (*The Girl Next Door*) drags out the dissolution so long that you may be checking your watch by the time he arrives at his unexpectedly bittersweet resolution. With John Krasinski. (110 min.) [illegible]

Soul Surfer Bethany Hamilton, a promising teen from Kauai, nearly died in 2003 after a shark bit off her left arm, and her memoir inspired this biopic. AnnaSophia Robb (*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*) is too subdued as the teenage heroine; one might expect more affect from a young woman fighting to overcome disability and return to competitive surfing. Hamilton's recovery was spurred by her Christian faith and the loving support of not only her parents (Dennis Quaid, a strong Helen Hunt) but the leader of her church group (Carrie Underwood). There's plenty of God talk here, but it's counterbalanced by the big surfing sequences (for which Hamilton performed some of the stunts). Disney Channel veteran Sean McNamara directed. (106 min.) [illegible]

Source Code Its sci-fi thriller scenario is salvaged by Jake Gyllenhaal's performance as a confused army officer who wakes up on a commuter train heading into Chicago. The main things Colter Stevens (Gyllenhaal) wants to know are, 1) Why he suddenly have another identity? 2) What [illegible] being directed at every cut by [illegible] people on the TV screen at my head? and 3) Who is this woman seated across from me (Michelle Monaghan) and how do I get to know her better? To say any more would constitute an unforgivable plot spoiler, but let's just say that Capt. Stevens' military handlers, played by Vera Farmiga and Jeffrey Wright, don't necessarily have his best interests at heart. But then, anyone who has seen a spy thriller of the past twenty years should already know that. The screenplay is by Ben Ripley. Able direction by Duncan Jones (*Moon*). (93 min.) [illegible]

There Be Dragons Ponderous, bloated, overstated Spanish Civil War period melodrama [illegible] of Roland Joffé's worst tendencies [illegible] a flashback, a dying Spaniard named Manolo Torres (Wes Bentley) confesses to his journalist son (Dougray Scott) the youthful [illegible] and misdemeanors, circa 1930, revolving around a courageous Catholic priest (Charlie Cox), a [illegible] Hungarian volunteer fighter (Olga Kurylenko), and a [illegible] leftist militia leader (Rodrigo Santoro) [illegible] by the young [illegible] selfish devotion to the Falange cause. Joffé (*The Killing Fields, The Mission, Vatel*) seemingly [illegible] "moral" spectacles like this. At least the action sequences are competent. Screenplay by Joffé. Presented in English. (120 min.) [illegible]

Thor Kenneth Branagh meets Marvel Comics. Hammer-wielding title Norse god (Chris Hemsworth) and his [illegible] detour at New Mexico as he falls in love with Natalie Portman on the way to killing the new (the red-eyed frost giant skeleton guy who helps a Thor's [illegible] Loki (Tom Hiddleston) take over Asgard and get their father Odin (Anthony Hopkins), king of the gods, at death's door. But all that? Branagh's direction feels the same as that of any other summer [illegible] and things go boom. [illegible] including Marvel chief Stan Lee, to defeat the screenplay. Fanboy delight; all others beware. Costarring Stellan Skarsgård and Kat Dennings. (114 min.) [illegible]

To Be an Astronaut [illegible] Take a trip inside the gears of NASA for an IMAX-enhanced view of everything from training to what'll [illegible] (45 min.) [illegible]

Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family The latest installment in Tyler Perry's Madea franchise follows the family matriarch as she attempts to gather her adult kids together for a family announcement. Written, directed, and starring Perry, also with Loretta Devine and Shad Moss. (106 min.) [illegible]

Water for Elephants Depression-era bummer drama about a circus animal keeper (Robert Pattinson) and his equestrian love interest (Reese Witherspoon), directed by Francis Lawrence, [illegible] by Richard LaGravenese from the novel of the same name by Sara Gruen. [illegible]

Win Win Comedy-drama about a downtrodden [illegible] (Paul Giamatti) moonlighting as a high school wrestling coach. Written and directed by Thomas McCarthy; also starring Amy Ryan and Alex Shaffer. [illegible]

ONE-NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, MAY 19

Frankenstein (135 min., 2011). National Theatre Live (RCC, 7:00)

FRIDAY, MAY 20

A Streetcar Named Desire (122 min., 1951). Paramount Movie Classics (Paramount Theatre, Oakland, 7:00)

SUNDAY, MAY 22

Manon (185 min. with intermission, 2011). Performed live in HD from the Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona ([illegible], 10:00 a.m.)

MONDAY, MAY 23

[illegible] ([illegible] min., 1978). Followed by [illegible] (78 min., [illegible]). Forbidden Thrills Movie Nite (Forbidden Island, Alameda, 7:00)

TUESDAY, MAY 24

Beijing Bicycle (113 min., 2001). Presented by the East Bay Bicycle Coalition (RCC, 7:00)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

Atomic Mom ([illegible] min., 2010). Preceded by potluck and atomic tour at 6:30 pm, followed by discussion (Humanist Hall, Oakland, 7:30)

A Streetcar Named Desire
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OF GODS AND MEN
[illegible] PG-13
"Moving & Thought-Provoking!" – [illegible]
THE PRINCESS OF MONTPENSIER
(4:10) 9:30 NR
AFRICAN CATS
4:05 G 11:30am Show Sat & Sun
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PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3D, STRANGER TIDES (PG13)
FRI-SAT-SUN THUR 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:00
MON TUE WED 3:45, 7:00, 10:00
BRIDESMAIDS (R)
FRI-SAT-SUN THUR 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10
MON WED 4:30, 7:30, 10:10
THOR 3D (PG13)
FRI-SAT-SUN 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:40
MON-TUE 4:15, 7:15, 9:40
WED 4:15, 7:15 (ENDS WED)
WATER FOR ELEPHANTS (PG13)
FRI-SAT-SUN 12:45, 4:00, 7:10, 9:30
MON-WED 4:00, 7:10, 9:30 (ENDS WED)
KUNG FU PANDA 2 in 3D (PG)
THUR 11:45, 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:20
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KICKING BACK WITH THE DIME

Richmond group unleashes its first LP this month

By D. Scot Miller

As the vendors and art galleries on Telegraph were closing up shop after a recent Art Murmur, Chioke Jelani (aka Chi) and Knightshift — better known as local hip-hop duo **The Dime** — were watching the sun set over Lake Merritt as they waited for a table at the **Lake Chalet**. Accompanying them were manager **Christopher Fond** and fellow rapper **Binks Winston** who plays an important part in the group's biography — he's basically a hip hop **Phil Spector**. Considering the lush, loud bank delivery and style of the Richmond representing rap group, a posh eatery that makes its own amber ale was an apt setting. Deeply rooted in the Bay Area's do-it-yourself ethos, The Dime has found its niche in the Oakland scene based entirely on live shows, YouTube videos and word-of-mouth.

The Dime has a sound that is unique to the Bay Area. It does not adhere to the trends that many have come to expect from West Coast hip-hop. There is no connection to hyphy, for example. Rather this group recreates narrative neck-snappers of a bygone time full of word play. When discussing their music, Chioki (Chi), a baritone in the truest sense of the word, is balanced by the tenor of Knightshift (Shift) and the alto of Binks, making it easy to see how these men have worked, lived and survived together to create their first LP *Brickyard Cove*, due out May 31.

The Dime

Chi: The Dime is, first, an acronym for Desire Is Multiplied Everyday. We all know living in the Bay Area that the dime is top-notch. Our desire to be the best we can be multiplies every day. If you're not trying to be the best at something, you need to move the funk out of the way. It doesn't matter what you do — cooking, gardening, whatever — do it to your utmost. That's what we're about. We live in a predatory situation; you have to be the best. And the only way to be the best is to bring out the best in people around you.

Shift: What did **Pat Benatar** say? "Hit me with your best shot." We just want to bring back putting your all into something. There are too many people that say "I don't really care. This is nothing to me," but that's taking a punk role. That way if you get criticized, you can say, "I wasn't really trying." Put yourself in it. I hate the whole "go hard" thing, but it's real. There's nothing wrong with study, practice and loving what you do. Ain't no half stepping, that's real talk.

Chi: Binks was a big catalyst for us stepping up our game and our musicianship. This was about four or five years ago and he was out there contemplating his next move. Not on some music shit, but about his life. He said to me and Shift, "If y'all ain't going to get this shit moving, I'm not coming back out there." We took that to heart. He needed to know that we were serious about taking our music to the next level.

Binks: I started rapping late. About twelve years ago I got into it when I went out to the Midwest for a while and started messing with some of my people out there. I was planning on going to New York next. I'm a free spirit like that. I knew what I wanted to do and I was faced with this situation of having to choose to either go somewhere else and start building from the ground up or putting it together with family. I decided that there's strength in numbers.

Chi: There's real life going on. We come from a city that a lot of people see as a dead hole. When he came back, we said we can't have him out for nothing.

Shift: I started out in spoken word, so rapping came natural to me. I used to work with my brother **Rg**, a musician producer, and we would make these demo tapes. We had a little four-track recorder and he's a real sharp cat so he could take the demo beats off the software and make them sound like he was working on some MPC. I'd be hanging with Binks at the Chevron rapping. Chi was out there doing his thing. ... I got hooked with **DJ Icewater** and [his studio] **The Corner Store** through Chi and Binks and we started talking about how the craft was being disrespected. I said, "We can do something about this. My dudes is nice."

The Dime

Show Details
At Ashkenaz (1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley)
Wednesday, May 18, 9:30 p.m. $5-$8.
Ashkenaz.com

Brickyard Cove

Shift: I used to catch the No. 71 to the BART station and walk around Harbor Way to my house and I'd see a bus, I think a No. 73, that would keep going straight down MacDonald, and it said "Brickyard Cove," and I always wondered what that meant. So Chi, who is a Richmond and hip-hop historian, broke it down to me. How it's like a well-to-do community. We used to go to **Keller's Beach** and **Miller Knox Park** a lot, but we never went any further. I mean there's gates. We're from The Rich, you know what I'm saying? You see some gates and you're like "Gates? Naw." But Chi took dudes out there. There's some raw houses out there on the water, on stilts.

Chi: Million-dollar plus homes on the other side of the Chevron refinery. Through the Ferry Point Tunnel, through Miller Knox, past the railroad museum, there's a really affluent community. They call it Brickyard Cove but it's Richmond. They share our zip code. Our crime rate is theirs. They enjoy all the benefits of Richmond, but away from all the suffering people have to go through on one side of the tracks.

To take it back even further, Brickyard Cove on the docks was once a brickyard. Everything built out from there. So we named the album *Brickyard Cove* saying, "We're taking it back and, at the same time, we're trying to establish our own sanctuary in The Rich. We want to be safe too." Like Pac said back in the day, "we want a place with streams running through, and safety for our loved ones. We want a place to raise our families just as much as the next man."

The Sound

Shift: It's so weird how it happened. Chi was up on that East Coast stuff. We were only hip to what they played on Rap City back in the day. Chi laced us to a lot of that. So we just did what we felt worked for us. It was the natural come-up. We get love from everybody. The ladies, the grimiest cats to the OGs who say, "I don't even listen to that shit!"

Binks: It's what my uncle said. As far as the music is concerned, do what the fuck you want to do.

The Future of The Dime

Chi and Shift: World domination!

Binks: Right now, we're at a plateau. Being grown men has taken some time getting used to. We came from down here and we know we still have a long way to go, obstacles and whatnot, and the best way to face this beast is head on. ●

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The Cars

THE CARS DRIVE OFF, AGAIN

After 24 years the group returns for a terse performance at the Fox Theater

By Rachel Swan

Exciting, yes. Maybe even interesting. But definitely too short. That was the general consensus among concertgoers as they shambled down Telegraph Avenue on Friday night after watching **The Cars** descend on the Fox Theater. It was the show that some art rock devotees had waited 23 years to see. And by 9:30 p.m. it was over.

"That **Ric Ocasek**, he didn't spend a lot of time bantering with the crowd," a man confided to his friend, more in puzzlement than annoyance.

"Yeah, Ric," the friend snickered, in the manner of someone who'd known Cars frontman Ocasek for a long time. Or at least long enough to understand the singer's eccentricities. "Yeah, he's always been kind of, you know, stoned."

Well, possibly. Although the fact that he's now 62 years old could count for something.

That said, The Cars look virtually unchanged from their heyday. Ocasek might be a little more jowly, but he's still capable of a stern, withering look — even with sunglasses on. Keyboardist **Greg Hawkes** is still a cute, gender ambiguous platinum blond. Guitarist **Elliot Easton** can still rock a modish bowl cut, albeit slightly more conservative than before. From far away, the only band member who looks older is drummer **David Robinson**, and that's only because the long hair gives him away.

The Cars announced their retirement in 1988, twelve years before the death of bassist **Benjamin Orr** of pancreatic cancer. And unlike other aging pop stars, they appeared to really mean it. Ocasek promised in subsequent interviews that he wasn't planning to launch any reunion tours or drop any albums after the band's expiration date. So it was a welcome surprise when the band had a sudden change of heart last year. Perhaps they were embarrassed into it, after Easton and Hawkes attempted to resurrect the group with a different lineup in 2005 (not surprisingly, The New Cars foundered). Or maybe it was the resurgence of new-wave styles in pop culture. Maybe, as the official story has it, they just reunited through Facebook.

Whatever the case, fans were pumped, as indicated by the packed house at the Fox, where the median age fell somewhere between forty and sixty. The Cars played a fast, terse set of old hits and tunes from their new album, *Move Like This*, which sounds uncannily like it could have been issued in the mid-Eighties. Even in Orr's absence, the band's orchestration hasn't really changed. Ocasek still supplies rhythm guitar beneath Easton's lead, while Hawkes handles most of the bass lines on keyboard (he also plays bass on a few of the album cuts). Songs like "Keep on Knocking," which hovers on a blocky three-chord riff, and the effervescent pop track "Free" seem nearly indistinguishable from the band's old catalog. Ocasek has the same hiccuppy vocals, the same tendency to jump a few pitches in the middle of a lyric, the same way of chomping off consonants at the ends of words. And he's still cool enough to stand with hands clasped behind his back, sentry-like, whenever he cedes guitar duties to Easton.

Not surprisingly, *Move Like This* got a pretty warm reception from consumers, and it's only been out for a week. But it was the old hits that really worked the crowd at the Fox — songs like "Let's Go" and "You Might Think," which is perhaps the best stalker love song of all time. (In the video, Ocasek attempts to woo a woman by popping through the pipes in her bathtub, and inserting himself into a tube of lipstick.) Most fans could recognize the hits from a single opening chord.

So perhaps it was a good thing that The Cars hewed to the recorded versions of their songs as much as possible, and kept the banter to a minimum. Fans sang with the choruses and clapped along, arhythmically, with Robinson's drum fills. Mid-set, Ocasek peered at the crowd the way a person appraises furniture. "We have a lot to talk about tonight," he said. It came off as a joke.

The show went by with a kind of mechanical precision that probably suited the band's fan base. Background projections showed propeller patterns, cityscapes, close-ups of a computer keyboard, and screensaver psychedelia, which gave the illusion of a wilder, more free-ranging performance. Fans loitered contentedly from side to side, many of them exactly offbeat. The lights went dim between numbers, providing the equivalent of a punctuation mark. By the time the band took its second encore — a rousing rendition of its most ubiquitous hit, "Just What I Needed" — they'd already covered a huge swath of material. And the night was still young.

"One twenty-nine," said a man in a Chris Robinson T-shirt, glancing down at his watch as the lights came up.

Perhaps it's always better to end on a peak. That seems to be The Cars' MO after all. ●

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

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WHAT'S NEW?

Garage-y élan, Nubian diaspora and raw trumpet.

Girls Names

Dead to Me

Dead to Me is the full length debut disc by Irish trio **Girls Names**. These purveyors of lo-fi indie/garage pop/rock will no doubt salivate once they get a whiff of this, but the band has enough going for it that those not into raw-sounding rock may also find a lot to like.

Stylistically, Girls Names evoke **Beat Happening**, **Helium**, locals **Henry's Dress** (RIP) and offspring **Aisler's Set** — spunky garage-y élan and melodies flavored by mid-Sixties radio pop and Seventies punk, both but terse musicianship, clanging guitar (with frequent surf overtones), melancholy ambience, and enough echo to have been recorded down at the tube station at midnight. Guitarist/singer **Cathal Cully** sounds as if he has a head cold and his lover departed just last night but he's determined to achieve catharsis. Except for bass drum thump, **Neil Brogan**'s drums sound like they were recorded down the hallway and the background vocals reflect the singer's angst. So what, if anything, sets this lot apart from two dozen other singalong combos? For one thing, Girls Names doesn't confuse manic frenzy for urgency. *Dead's* songs have a palpable air of desperation born of playing because one must in a section of town with gloomy job prospects and lousy public transportation. Their melodies are of the stick-in-the-head variety. Kicked off by the "Be My Baby" drum intro, "I Lose" has the streamlined, fervent, hard-strummed drive of the **Velvet Underground** and descendants **Josef K and the Feelies**. "Nothing More to Say" is a cross between "Boys Don't Cry"-era **Cure** and the early **Ramones** — a fine distillation of churlish fatalism. *Dead* is no classic, but it's gratifying. (Slumberland)

— *Mark Keresman*

Les Nubians

Nü Revolution

Les Nubians' third album (and first in eight years) opens with a Cameroonian drum circle weaving an accelerating rhythmic web. The disc's only instrumental track nicely sets the tone for **Hélène** and **Célia Faussart**, the Paris-born daughters of a French father and Cameroonian mother, to explore in soothing harmonies a wealth of sounds stemming from the African diaspora. The Nubian songbirds go it alone for "Je M'en Occupe," a French-language a cappella ode in which they overdub their voices melodically and percussively to create a mesmerizing blend reminiscent of **Zap Mama**. A variety of instruments and voices — live, synthesized, and sampled — and guests including neo-soul singer **Eric Roberson**, the South African band **Freshlyground**, and rappers **Blitz the Ambassador** and **John Banzai** join Les Nubians on other numbers. The ballads "Vogue Navire" and "Femme Polyandre," both with smooth jazz backing and a **Sade**-like vibe, should find favor with fans of the duo's earlier recordings.

Many songs were made with the dance floor in mind. *Move your body*, the sisters sing in English over an uptempo, incessantly syncopated, drum machine driven makossa groove on "Africa for the Future." And on "Nu Soul Makossa" — with help from **Manu Dibango**, the Cameroonian saxophonist whose funky 1972 hit "Soul Makossa" helped launch the disco craze that kept much of the world dancing for the remainder of that decade — they bring the intercultural musical exchange between Africa, Europe, and the Americas full circle. (*Shanachie*)

—*Lee Hildebrand*

At Yoshi's (1330 Fillmore St., San Francisco) on May 19 and 20, 8 & 10 p.m. $30. Yoshis.com

Ambrose Akinmusire

When the Heart Emerges Glistening

The hype surrounding **Ambrose Akinmusire**'s **Blue Note** debut has eclipsed that of any other local artist this year. And with good reason. A hard-driving rhythm player with an uninhibited imagination, Akinmusire managed to put his personal stamp on an album that's also sure to succeed commercially. With the exception of one standard and one song by bassist **Harish Raghavan**, Akinmusire composed all the music. He solicited minimal help from producer Jason Moran, who plays Rhodes on two tracks. He recorded everything over the course of a couple days, keeping a lot of the blurps and stutters that a more fastidious artist might edit out. Akinmusire wanted the whole thing to sound raw, but more important, he wanted it to sound individual.

The riskiest track on *Heart* is the drum-and spoken-word track "My Name Is Oscar," which is not so much a eulogy as an invocation (*Meheerh/I am youth/Don't shoot*). The **Bob Haggart/Johnny Burke** standard "What's New?" gets a winking stride piano treatment, though Akinmusire and pianist **Gerald Clayton** both incorporate a lot of modern sounding harmonies into their solos. "Far But Few Between" has some of the most blistering trumpet work, even though it's extremely compact. At one point Akinmusire stops for an and another band member grunts, either in exhaustion or approval. "What's most striking about the album, though, is that even an untrained listener will sense the uniqueness of Akinmusire's voice. His horn solos are often technically complicated, but they're also distinctively unusual. He isn't afraid to play with tempos or flow in and out of time, and he's playing at a level where such things aren't merely acceptable — they're refreshing. (Blue Note)

— *Rachel Swan*

At Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (701 Mission St., SF) on May 22, 8 p.m. $20, $35. SFJAZZ.org

LOCAL LICKS

Lisa Engelken

Caravan

Jazz singer **Lisa Engelken**'s album, which dropped last year, is terrific. A true polyglot, she sings the Vinicius de Moraes tune "Canto de Ossanha" in Portuguese, scats an opener "We'll Be Together Again," slips into a high pitched, mossy Bhoomi Desai-ish soprano on "Caravan" (which features darkly inventive harmonies from pianist **Adam Shulman**), and nods to **Joni Mitchell**. *Très fantastique*. (Little Angel Records)

At the Jazzschool (2087 Addison St., Berkeley) on Saturday, June 11, 8 p.m. $15.

Calthe

Catalia

Inventive themes and sensei lyrics are to be expected, given that this five-piece honky-tonk band records in an Oakland studio called "Dirty Old Basement." That said, it's always refreshing to hear an up-tempo dance tune called "Funeral Home Blues," or a love ballad that begins with a humorously salacious lyric (*I climb inside her/I smell her perfume*), sung over lilting slide guitar. (self released)

At Thee Parkside (1600 17th St., San Francisco) on Sunday, May 29, 4 p.m., free.

Messy Marv

Goon Vitamins

It probably doesn't bode well for **Messy Marv** that the best song on his new compilation has a beat cribbed from **Dev and The Cataracs**. And the reason it's good is a verse by guest rapper **The Jacka**, whose distinctive, half sung drawl blends seamlessly with the rubber-band bass. Called "G Shit," it uses prescription meds in creative ways. Newbie **Roach Gigz** makes a sassy cameo on "City Shit Remix." (SMC Recordings)

Christopher Ferreira

The Piano Pieces

It's not always possible to access an artist's personality via an album of solo piano compositions, but **Christopher Ferreira**'s new effort speaks volumes — perhaps because of the pregnant pauses or the edgy gloom of his harmonies or the intentional murkiness of his chords. The dissonance must have been intentional, given that *Piano Pieces* was about [illegible] years in the making. (self released)

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CONCERTS & CLUBS

ON SALE THIS WEEK

Enrique Iglesias: with Pitbull. Tickets go on sale Friday, May 20 at 10 a.m. Fri., Aug. 7, 7:30 p.m. HP Pavilion, 525 W. Santa Clara St., San Jose.
Gillian Welch: Tickets go on sale Sunday, May 22 at 10 a.m. Thu., July 7, 8 p.m., $30.50-$39.50. The Warfield.
[illegible]: Tickets go on sale Sunday, May 22 at [illegible] a.m. Fri., Aug. 5, 8 p.m., $24. The Regency Ballroom.
[illegible]: Tickets go on sale Saturday, May 21 at 10 a.m. Sat., Aug. 27, 7 p.m. $29.50-$100. Fox Theater.
Public Enemy: Tickets go on sale Sunday at 10 a.m. Fri., Aug. 12, 8 p.m., $37. The Regency Ballroom.
Return to Forever IV: with Zappa Plays Zappa. Tickets go on sale Sunday, May 22 at 10 a.m. Thu., Sept. 22, 8 p.m., $49-$102.50. The Warfield.
Roger Daltrey Presents: The Who's Tommy: Tickets go on sale Friday, May 20 at 10 a.m. Fri., Oct. 21, 8 p.m. San Jose Civic Auditorium, 145 W. San Carlos, San Jose.

WEDNESDAY 18

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] with Mike [illegible] and [illegible]. Blue Bear Cafe, 7 p.m. Donations accepted.
Eliza Gilkyson Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. 8 p.m. $24.50, $26.50
[illegible] [illegible] 7:30 p.m. $5-$15
Whiskey Brothers old-time and bluegrass. [illegible] Pub, 8 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bad Luck Music Night Subterranean Arthouse. 9-11 p.m.
[illegible] [illegible] 9-10 p.m. free
Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band: Benefit for Albany Music Fund Yoshi's, 8 & 10 p.m. $20-$25
Jazz Theory Performance Class with Carl [illegible] 57th Street Gallery 6-8 p.m.
The Hawt Trio Jupiter, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with [illegible]. [illegible] Lounge 9 p.m., $8
[illegible] with the [illegible] and [illegible]. The Uptown. 9 p.m. free
[illegible] Presents: [illegible] This week: [illegible] and special guests. The Uptown. 9 p.m. free
Landscapes with [illegible], A Dude [illegible], and [illegible] Mile High Club 8 p.m.
[illegible] with [illegible] 8 p.m. [illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] with [illegible] Foreign Legion, [illegible] 9:30 p.m., $5 before 10 p.m., $8 thereafter

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] Playing the songs of [illegible]. [illegible] 9 p.m., $8
[illegible] Night with [illegible] and DJ [illegible] 7-11 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] w/ Gaucho & [illegible] 7 p.m.
Gaucho w/ the [illegible] Session, [illegible] 8 p.m., free

Woody Whitfield & the Miles Greenwell Trio Rose Room, 7:30 p.m. $35, $40, $45

Rock & Pop

The Fiery Furnaces (Duo Show) Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m. $20
[illegible] with The [illegible] and [illegible]. Bottom of the Hill 9 p.m. $8
[illegible] with [illegible] (final show), and [illegible]. Kabuki, [illegible] 8 p.m. $10, $13
Kristeen Young with City of Women. Hotel Utah, 8 p.m. $8
[illegible]: Audio Visual [illegible] Science of Magic, and Punk vs. Memory [illegible] 7:30 p.m., $8
[illegible] with the [illegible] and [illegible] Sound, Great American Music Hall 8 p.m., $21
This Will Destroy You with [illegible] The Independent, 8 p.m. $12
This Will Destroy You with [illegible] The Independent, 8 p.m. $12
X-Ray Eyeballs (members of Golden [illegible]) with King Lollipop and [illegible] Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m. $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible] 9 p.m., $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Freddy Clarke and his Banda [illegible] [illegible], & contemporary [illegible]. Peña Pachamama. 8 p.m. $12
Lounge: [illegible] & Voz do Brasil Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 p.m. $7
Omar Sosa Quintet with [illegible] SF International Arts Festival opening night performance. Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m., $16, $20, $35

THURSDAY 19

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible], Ben Farmer, [illegible] Mama Buzz Cafe 7 p.m. Donations accepted
[illegible] Brotherhood plus special guests, The New Parish, 9 p.m., $15
[illegible] plus [illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $20.50, $22.50
[illegible] with [illegible] Crew & Friends, Zahra [illegible] and [illegible]. Subterranean Arthouse. 8:30 p.m., $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] The [illegible] 8 p.m. $8
[illegible] Auditorium [illegible] Quartet [illegible] Lighthouse, 2 p.m., free
[illegible]: [illegible] Terrence Brewer Yoshi's, 8 & 10 p.m. $10-$15
Thursday Night Jazz Jam hosted by [illegible] 57th Street Gallery 6-10 p.m.

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with [illegible] Blues [illegible], [illegible] 8 p.m. $5
DJ [illegible] plays Happy Hour [illegible] 5 p.m. free
[illegible] with [illegible] Don't Take The [illegible] and Through the [illegible], Red [illegible], 7 p.m., $10, $12

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] with [illegible] 8 & 10 p.m. $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Eddie [illegible] w/ guests, Yoshi's [illegible]

[illegible] 6-8 p.m. free
[illegible] Ramones [illegible] 8:30 p.m.
[illegible] Jones Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m. $10
Woody Whitfield & Old Miles Greenwell Trio Rose Room 7:30 p.m. $35, $40, $45

Rock & Pop

The 5th Annual Bob Dylan Birthday [illegible] with Norman Famous & the Backsliders, [illegible] Big Lion, [illegible] & the Fish [illegible], [illegible] Band, The Silver Threads, [illegible], The [illegible], [illegible] 7 p.m. $10
[illegible] with [illegible]. The Warfield 8 p.m. $35, $45
[illegible] with The Little [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible] Cafe du Nord 9 p.m. $12
[illegible] with [illegible] and the [illegible], Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m. $8
[illegible] with [illegible] Lemon Party [illegible] 9 p.m. $7
KUSF in Exile Benefit: [illegible] John Dwyer, [illegible] and [illegible], plus [illegible] Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m. $20
Popscene: [illegible] Party with [illegible] 9 p.m. $10-$12
[illegible] with [illegible] Cellar [illegible] 9 p.m. $5
[illegible] with [illegible] The Independent, 8 p.m. $12
[illegible] with French Horn Rebellion, The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Les Nubians Yoshi's San Francisco, May 19-20, 8 & 10 p.m. $30
"Make a Scene" with [illegible] with [illegible] 9:30 p.m., $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] [illegible] 9:30 p.m. free
Flamenco Thursdays [illegible] & [illegible] with [illegible] & [illegible], Peña Pachamama. 8 p.m. $12
Laura [illegible], Red Poppy Art House, 7 p.m. $15-$20

FRIDAY 20

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Mama Buzz Cafe, 7-8 p.m. donations accepted
Jimmy LaFave Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $24.50, $26.50
Stand Up for [illegible] night of poetry [illegible] in opposition to Berkeley's proposed anti-sitting law, with [illegible] Art House Gallery & Cultural Center, 7-10 p.m., $10

Gospel & Vocal

"Club Jesus" Gospel showcase, plus rap, spoken word, drama, vocalists, [illegible] & more. [illegible] 7 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

4 Generations of Miles Featuring Mike Stern, Sonny Fortune, Buster Williams & Jimmy Cobb Yoshi's, May 20-22, 8 & 10 p.m. [illegible]
[illegible] Cafe Van Kleef, 8 p.m.
[illegible] Jazz Trio [illegible], 6:30 p.m. free
[illegible] Jupiter 8 p.m., free
[illegible] Eddie Marshall, [illegible] Calvin Keys and [illegible] Clark on Hammond B3 organ, Jazzschool 8 p.m. $15
Soul Power [illegible] 9 p.m., $10, $12
[illegible], Subterranean Arthouse.

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MAY 19

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MAYDAY · STEVIE STONE · KUNG FU VAMPIRE
JUNE 10

FACE TO FACE
STRUNG OUT
BLITZKID · THE DARLINGS
JUNE 23

THE GLITCH MOB
[illegible]
JUNE 24

TIPPER SOUND EXPERIENCE
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JULY 8

REEL BIG FISH
STREETLIGHT MANIFESTO
[illegible]
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FRANK GAMBALE
JEAN-LUC PONTY
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
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SEPTEMBER 22

ECHO & THE BUNNYMEN

THURSDAY
MAY 19

TEDESCHI TRUCKS BAND

SUNDAY
MAY 22

DEFTONES
THE DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN · LE BUTCHERETTES
JUNE 13

PANIC! AT THE DISCO
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SAT May 21st 9:00pm — Valerie Troutt
SUN May 22nd 9:30pm — Caldecott
MON May 23rd 9:00-11pm — Ali Tal Quartet, featuring Grant Levin Original Jazz Combination
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PICKS

Rival Schools

There seems to be two kinds of people in the world: those who don't know who the hell **Walter Schreifels** is, and those who are rabidly obsessed with the man and whatever he touches. The New York-bred singer/songwriter/guitarist was behind such pioneering Eighties/Nineties post-hardcore bands as **Gorilla Biscuits** and **Quicksand**, not to mention a slew of others. But his most successful project came, as most with **Rival Schools** and its debut, *United By Fate*, a driving alt-rock album full of hooks, raw power, and Schreifels' distinct teeth. Despite its success, the band broke up not long after the album release. As the years went by, Schreifels went even poppier — both with the band Walking Concert and a recent solo disc. A few years ago Rival Schools reunited for a tour, and this year finally gave fans what they'd been dying for: a second album of new material, *Pedals*, released in March. While not as heavy as the band's debut, it's still got Schreifels' stamp on it: the spiraling guitar, active bass lines, and that uncanny ability to make pop songwriting sound effortless. In other words, perfect. Rival Schools play **Slim's** (333 11th St., San Francisco) on Tuesday, May 24, with **Jonah Matranga** and **Suedehead**. 8 p.m., $14, $16. Slims-SF.com *— Kathleen Richards*

Abraham Burton Trio

A disciple of Jackie McLean, **Abraham Burton** is one of the great, unheralded saxophonists of his generation. He's known for having a phenomenal ear and an equally phenomenal sense of time, meaning he can shift meters with the precision of a drummer. More important, Burton runs his trio as a collective. He prefers to play with people he's known for a very long time — namely drummer **Nasheet Waits** and bassist **Eric Revis**, who will accompany Burton when he graces the East Bay for the **Malcolm X Jazz Festival** this weekend. On Saturday, Burton will share a stage with Latin percussionist **John Santos** and **Umar Bin Hassan** of **The Last Poets**. On Sunday, he'll headline two trio sets. Given his command of dynamics and dazzlingly technical phrases, it should be a fantastic show. At **San Antonio Park** (1701 East 19th St., Oakland) on Saturday, May 21, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., and **Eastside Cultural Center** (2277 International Blvd., Oakland) on Sunday, May 22, 6 p.m. & 8 p.m. $15. EastSideArtsAlliance.com *— Rachel Swan*

Vivian Green

Vivian Green

A product of the Philadelphia music scene, **Vivian Green** has spent the past decade making her mark amidst a class of neo-soul peers that includes **Musiq Soulchild**, **Bilal**, and **Jill Scott**. When the latter tapped Green to be a backup singer for her world tour, it didn't take long for a major label deal to follow. Two years later, Green is a single mom whose third album, 2010's *Beautiful*, was her first recording in five years. Aided by producer/composer **Anthony Bell**, the thirtysomething singer-songwriter opted for a contemporary R&B sound that embraces hip-hop nuances ("So Far Gone"), reggae rhythms ("Save Me") and the obligatory ballad inspired by her son (the string-laden "Jordan's Song"). A well-respected singer-songwriter whose talents have been tapped by the likes of **Guru** and **Cyndi Lauper**, Green will be sharing the stage with **Eric Roberson** at their **Soul Survivors Tour** on Wednesday and Thursday, May 25-26, at **Yoshi's** (510 Embarcadero West, Oakland). 8 & 10 p.m. $30. Yoshis.com *— Dave Gil de Rubio*

Butch Hancock

Butch Hancock is a member of **The Flatlanders**, the superstar trio that includes his longtime pals **Joe Ely** and **Jimmie Dale Gilmore**. Like his compadres, Hancock has created an impressive body of work that blends folk, country rock, and his unique Texas-bred outlook into songs that aren't easy to pigeonhole. He prefers to stay outside the mainstream music business, touring and recording only when the spirit moves him. It's been a long time since he's visited the West Coast on his own, so don't miss this chance to see one of America's finest songwriters in action. At the **Freight & Salvage** (2020 Addison St., Berkeley) on Sunday, May 22, 8 p.m., $20/$22.50. FreightandSalvage.org *— j. poet*

New Century Chamber Orchestra

Elevate, a world premiere commission by **Mark O'Connor**, promises to be an upbeat culmination to the **New Century Chamber Orchestra**'s season. Add in Elgar's *Introduction and Allegro*, Bridge's curiously titled *Sir Roger de Coverly* and Schnittke's much-loved *Moz-Art à la Haydn*, and you have the makings of one fine concert. Head to **First Congregational Church** (2345 Channing Way, Berkeley) on Thursday, May 19, 8 p.m., $29-$49, $15 for those under 35. 415-357-1111 or NCCO.org. *— Jason Victor Serinus*

C&C

6 p.m.

Rock & Pop

The Bodice Rippers Disco Volante, 9:30 p.m. $5

[illegible] with [illegible], The Shots, and [illegible], Ashkenaz, 8 p.m. $15

[illegible] with [illegible], Midnight Cobras, and [illegible], [illegible] Club, 9 p.m.

[illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible], Stork Club, 8 p.m. $8

Sabertooth Zombie, with [illegible], [illegible], Lorna Prieta, Devolere, and Band Of Mercy, 924 Gilman, 7:30 p.m. $6

Sweet and Tender Hooligans, "The Ultimate Tribute to Morrissey and the Smiths" with The Curse, DJ Damon (Rendezvous A Go Go, Cat Club). The Uptown, 8 p.m. $17

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Plays of Joytime with special guests, The New Parish, 9:30 p.m. $15, $18

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Adwoa Kudoto An Evening of West African Ghanaian music and dance, La Peña Cultural Center, 6-8 p.m., $13

Cuba Caribe Festival With lectures, lectures, workshops, film screenings, and dance performances. Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, May 20-22. $20

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Bluegrass Bonanza Shelby Ash Band [illegible] bluegrass bands, [illegible] and Stars, 8 p.m. $7-$10 sliding scale

[illegible] [illegible] & [illegible], 8 p.m. $20

[illegible] CD Release for The [illegible] Organ Song with [illegible], Cafe du

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SPEAKERS:
Mike Farrell Mariel Hemingway & Bobby Williams
John Robbins & Ocean Robbins Will Durst The Yes Men
Caroline Casey James Twyman Dr Steven Greer
Mahendra Kumar Trivedi The Grandmothers

And a whole lot more!

C&C

Mert 8 p.m. $12

Joyce Grant & Norman Westbrook Zingari Jazzhouse, 8 p.m.-midnight, free

Trumpet By Taylor with The Rewards [illegible] The Independent, 8 p.m., $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Westbrook Vs. Herman/Yarborough Sonic Unity Congress Red Poppy Art House, 8 p.m. $12-$20

Early Street Presents: Somebody to Love; My Instincts: historical Freddie Mercury Brava Room, 10 p.m., $25

Doc Paul's Sunday Westbrook Bob & Barb with Karen & [illegible], 5:30-8 p.m., free

Eddie Pasternak Duo w/ guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-8 p.m., free

Wesla Whitfield & the Mike Greensill Trio Rrazz Room, 7:30 p.m., $35, $40, $45

Rock & Pop

DooPog with Will [illegible] Future Twin, and Total Slacker, Bottom of the Hill, 9:30 p.m., $10

S.S. Records 10th Anniversary Celebration with [illegible] with [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 8 p.m., $13

Nightshift Welcome [illegible] Party with S-TQRMA, [illegible] Sao Paulo, and MSMC, Rickshaw Stop, 9 p.m. $10-$15

Poor Man's Whiskey with [illegible] Carpenters, Great American Music Hall, 9 p.m., $17-$20

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] presents Blue Bear Live VI with [illegible] Hosted by Renee Richardson from KPOO, with DJ Harry Duncan and opening performances by Blue Bear youth, Slims, Slim's 200 [illegible] $75-$150

Los Rosvelts Yoshi's San Francisco, 9 & 11 p.m., $30

Hammon Broad & with Club 90, [illegible] Lounge, 9 p.m., $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Para Rosvelts with special guests, Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m., $13

SATURDAY 21

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Dumbfiddler with Early and Often Marco Buzz Cafe, 7 p.m., [illegible]

The Jazzhouse Jr. [illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 11 a.m., $8.50, $8

Gospel & Vocal

[illegible] Gospel Three Harmon & Ten, [illegible] America First Congregational Church, 7:30 p.m., $15, $25, $30

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] of Mirth Featuring Mike Stern, Sonny [illegible], Buster Williams & Karen [illegible] Yoshi's, 8 & 10 p.m., $22, $28

Burlesque [illegible] and Hot Pink Feathers Present: "[illegible]" Shattuck Down Low, 7:30-10:30 p.m., $7, $12

The Club [illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., $15

The Golden Mix of Jazz, Soul, & Comedy with California Flight, Johnny B's, 8 p.m., $10-$25, includes free food

[illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., free

Jazz & Joy [illegible], 3:30 p.m., free

[illegible] Artist-in-resident "[illegible] Dance" performance Subterranean Arthouse, 8:30 p.m.

Malcolm X Jazz Arts Festival with The Abraham Burton Trio, [illegible] Park, noon, free

[illegible] Cafe Van Kleef, 8 p.m.

Valerie Woods [illegible], 8 p.m., $5

Kids

Los Amiguitos de La Peña Saturday morning children's show w/ live music, La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 a.m., $6, kids $4

Rock & Pop

David-Michael [illegible] Dream House, 7:30 p.m.

[illegible] Karen & Jonathan Paddock [illegible], 8 p.m., $12, $15

[illegible] with Hammerlock, [illegible] Monks and The Mannequins, and Guantanamo Doggie, 924 Gilman, 8 p.m., $10

[illegible] with White Lung, [illegible] No Babies, [illegible] and Prison Library, Lobot Gallery, 8 p.m., $5-$8

Pretty Mess with [illegible], Edge City Saints, and Crowned As Fools, Eli's Mile High Club, 8 p.m., $7

Star [illegible] with Gomment (San Jose), and Star Shoot [illegible], Eli's Mile High Club, 3 p.m.

[illegible] Present: with Cat [illegible], Lone Wolf and Calling Morocco, [illegible] Club, 9 p.m., $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Gents the [illegible] with special guests, The New Parish, 9 p.m., $10

[illegible] [illegible] Lounge, 9 p.m., free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Cuba Caribe Festival With [illegible], workshops, film screenings, and [illegible] performances, [illegible] Center for the Arts, $20

[illegible] de Carnaval: Pre-Carnaval Party with Grupo Samba [illegible] with Jorge Alabê, [illegible] do Pandeiro, [illegible] Costa (7-string guitar & [illegible]) and [illegible] Cubans, 8 p.m., $10

([illegible]) La Peña Cultural Center, 8 p.m., $12, $15

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] [illegible], 8 & 11 p.m., $20

[illegible] [illegible], 3 p.m., free

[illegible] Italian folk music w/ [illegible], [illegible] #3:30-12:15 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The [illegible] Records Four Honky-Tonk [illegible] [illegible], $17.15 p.m., $25

The [illegible] The [illegible], 9 p.m., $20, $22

Eddie Pasternak Duo w/ guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-8 p.m., free

George Michalski [illegible], 6:30 p.m.

Wesla Whitfield & the Mike Greensill Trio Rrazz Room, 7:30 p.m., $35, $40, $45

Rock & Pop

[illegible] for Easter Weekend [illegible] with [illegible] with Cornerbeef And The Freaktons, Bottom of the Hill, 1-4 p.m., $10 per adult, $7 per kid

[illegible] Night with The [illegible] with The Mimic [illegible] The Stroke, [illegible] Lounge, 9 p.m., $10

[illegible] with [illegible], Apathy Cycle, and Giant Squid, [illegible], 8 p.m., $12

[illegible].com Greensill Whiskey [illegible] with Broad Handsome & The Birthday Suits, Evenage, and Robert Kelly, Cafe du Nord, 9:30 p.m., $10

[illegible] England & the [illegible] [illegible] benefit show for Sunset Cooperative Nursery School with Charity and the Jamband and The [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 2 p.m., $7 per person, $25 per family

Kyle [illegible] with [illegible], Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 7:30 p.m., $65, $85, $125

Love [illegible] with Here Come the [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible] Tavern, 9:30 p.m., $7

S.S. Records 10th Anniversary Celebration with [illegible] with Lamps, [illegible] People, [illegible], and [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $10

[illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible] Light, [illegible], 10 p.m., $12

[illegible] in the White with [illegible] and [illegible] And The Thieves, Hotel Utah, 9 p.m., $8

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WED 5/18 9:30 pm $8 · $5 ssc or before 10 pm — HIP HOP: DUB ESQUIRE, BEL YEL, BABY JAYMES, WESTACY, BIG T., THE TRIBE + DJs TIB DIESEL & KOO-C hosted by TONY SPARKS

THU 5/19 8:30 pm $10 — CONSCIOUS ROOTS GROOVES & HIP HOP: LYRIC FOUNDRY, MAMA CROW & FRIENDS, ZAHIRA SOUL, KEALOHA FURNBASR

FRI 5/20 8:00 pm $15 — BENEFIT FOR CALIF WOLF CENTER "California Wolves Forever": BRASS MENAZERI, THE BRUTE, ZEJ & CALEN

SAT 5/21 9:30 pm $18 · $16 members — PSYCHEDELIC ROCK: MARK KARAN (Ratdog, Other Ones, & more) & JEMIMAH PUDDLEDUCK

SUN 5/22 3:00 pm $8 adults $4 kids — KIDS SHOW: ANDY Z & THE BEEHEADS Bay Area Parent Magazine's "Best of the Best"!

TUE 5/24 8:30 pm $10 — ZYDECO: MOTORDUDE ZYDECO 8 pm Cajun-Zydeco dance lesson

WED 5/25 8:30 pm $20 — BALKAN: PETAR RALCHEV QUARTET Star from Bulgaria 7:30 pm Bulgarian dance workshop

THU 5/26 8:30 pm $15 — CELEBRATING BOB DYLAN'S 70th: DOING DYLAN: Local Artists' Renditions of Dylan Songs featuring Country Joe, Eric & Suzy Thompson, David Gans, Stu Allen, Pat Nevins, Johnny Harper, Chris Rowan, Sippy Canoe, Sean Hodge & more! A benefit for Ashkenaz

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WED 5/18 THE NOW! TRIO 8:00 The NOW! Trio is an Afro-Cuban, funk rock, nu-jazz ensemble from Eugene, OR and Oakland, CA featuring members of the award-winning band Eleven Eyes. www.myspace.com/NowTrioMusic

THUR 5/19 SELECTOR. <100 W/ DJ DIET + HUFF & PUFF 8:00 Selector resident DJ Diet and guests Huff & Puff present <100, an dubb special. Selector Sessions exploring the low end of beats under 100 BPM. We bring down the tempo in order to bring up the bass. Every Third Thursday at Jupiter! www.soundcloud.com/dj-diet www.stronghold[illegible].com

FRI 5/20 LAGTIME 8:00 Lagtime is a three-piece, groove-fusion band rooted in rocky fusion, while spanning styles such as jazz, funk, reggae and blues, where interplay is the name of the game as each member feeds off the others. www.lagtimeband.com
KAT 010 5:00-7:00 The mighty Kat 010 of the Crown City Rockers gets your weekend started off right, playing his smoking Rhodes/keyboard. Wins [illegible] cutting-edge, sample-free, electro-acoustic, urban instrumental beats & grooves. www.reverbnation.com/kat010

SAT 5/21 INNERSPACE 8:00 Drawing from disparate influences such as progressive rock, drum and bass, and ethnic[al], Innerspace is the creation of keyboardist Steve Taylor and drummer Daniel Yaemin. www.reverbnation.com/stevetaylor

SUN 5/22 AMERICANA UNPLUGGED: JIMBO TROUT & THE FISH PEOPLE 5:00 Channeling the spirits of Spike Jones, Nic Rowley and the like, Jimbo and co. will transport you to a time when there was far less to worry about. Words can't describe their eclectic hybrid of bluegrass, old-time and jazz standards but these folks are a real treat to watch perform. www.jimbotrout.com

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Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Saturday Boss Soul Party with Dan Pink Pounce, Paul Paul, & Phengue School. Elbo Room, 10 p.m. $8

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Mickey Hart with Sun Sisters, Planet Studio Ensemble and MC Yogi. The Fillmore, 9 p.m. $25
Sun Shop Shangra [illegible] Boomtown Step, 9 p.m. $10
Pacolas Dounds Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m. $6, $15, $35
Brenda Pereira and Carlos [illegible], An Evening of [illegible] Red Poppy Art House, 8 p.m. $20

SUNDAY 22

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Jazzschool Unplugged: Jambo Kamal & The Fish Shoppe Jupiter, 5 p.m. free
Girls on a Limb Subterranean Rosarium, 8:30 p.m.
Dustin Hancock Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $20.50, $22.50
Jimmy's Pacolas Super Sessions Jimmy Ward & a different blues band every week. Peter's Restaurant, 8 p.m. free
My Boxcar with Good Shot Mario's Bohemian Cafe, 7 p.m. donations accepted

Classical & Opera

Oakland Civic Orchestra Led by Antonio Estrada, Martha Rodrigues and [illegible], conductor. Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 4 p.m. free
Sarah Zaharato Vaille, [illegible] Subterranean Arthouse, noon

Gospel & Vocal

Carlene Got Vibe and Evening Interfaith Gospel Choir, [illegible], Sing America Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 4 p.m. $20, $25, $30

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

A Generations of Mike Featuring Mike Stern, Sonny [illegible], [illegible] & Henry Cole Yoshi's, 7 p.m. $22-$28
Abraham Burton Trio Eastside Cultural Center, 6 p.m. $15
Bill Bell & Jazz Walpurgis Trio: A Tribute to Spring Shenanigans, 4:30 p.m. $10
Joanne O'Brien Jazz Quartet End of the Year Evening Anderson, 7 p.m. $5
Jazz and R&B Night Doug's Locker, 8-10 p.m. free
Brandt Pacolas Cafe Van Kleef, 8 p.m.
Tony [illegible] Jazz Trio Mick's Lounge, 6:30-9 p.m. free
Good Jazz Session Hosted by Angharad Davis Jazzschool, 7 p.m. $5

Rock & Pop

Coldwell Paradiso, 9:30 p.m.
Rennie Pish with Brian Burns (?), Apathy Cycle, Harrington Saints, Chump Change and Bobby Adopted. 924 Gilman, 5 p.m. $10
Tigon with Wells and Colony. Ali's Mile High Club, 8 p.m.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Reno, Carfle Festival With classes, listening workshops, film screenings, and more performances. Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, $20
"King of King's" & Jah Pacolas Pacolas Pacolas "Early Reserve" with Abraham Ross. Shattuck Down Low, 9:30 p.m. $10
"King of Steps" Anniversary: Bobby Banks Evening Down Low, 10:30 p.m. $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Goldtigers with Carolyn Brown and Rich McCulley. Thee Parkside, 4 p.m., free
Randy [illegible] Sextet Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m. $15
Songwriter Sundays rotating [illegible] in the lounge. Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m.-midnight, $5
Terry Savastano Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 p.m., free

Classical & Opera

Sweet School an opera for Sunday champagne brunch, [illegible] Mark, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. $52 for brunch plus gratuity and tax

Gospel & Vocal

Gospel Brunch w/ Future School & [illegible] gospel, $100 [illegible] Brunch, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. $32 Pendleton brunch

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Early Good Presents Somebody to Love: My Musical Tribute To Freddie Mercury Rrazz Room, 8 p.m. $25
Dark of the City Sunday [illegible] brunch, Bruno's, 4 p.m. $20-$30, $45 dinner and show
SFJAZZ Presents [illegible] Abbeyville Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 8 p.m. $60, $35
Stars, Lobanov & [illegible] featuring Andrew Speight, Sish Grube, & Mark Gillman. Bugging Saloon, 4:30-8:30 p.m. $6
Dustin Whitfield & [illegible] Mike [illegible] Trio Rrazz Room, 5 p.m. $35, $40, $45

Rock & Pop

Rookie Nites with Nite Jewel, Great Weird. [illegible] Music Hall, 8 p.m. $15
Can the Artisan with Daniel Lefkowitz. Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m. $16
S-D Records 10 Year Anniversary Show, with the [illegible] with [illegible] and Three Feet Sixty. Hemlock Tavern, 6 p.m. $6
[illegible] Sundays with The Human Condition and [illegible]. Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m. $10
[illegible] Kelors with Roxanne (Bath, Germany) and Swann Wolfing. The Rosamond, 3 p.m. $6
[illegible] Tracks Now, The Evening 8 p.m., $45-$67

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Tracks & Susan Tedeschi Band, The Warfield, 8 p.m. $45-$67
Meadow's Funk [illegible] Room, 9:30 p.m., free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Pacolas Sanchez Yoshi's San Francisco, 5 & 7 p.m. $5, $15-$25

MONDAY 23

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Bonnie Buena Hubba! the burlesque [illegible] Hubba Hubba Revue, The Uptown, 9 p.m. $5

Classical & Opera

Classical at the Freight presents Telemann Party with Gerrit Sharp Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $6.50, $10.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

All Tel Quintet Featuring [illegible], Lado [illegible] Velvet, 8:30 p.m.
[illegible], Evening Cafe Van Kleef, 8 p.m.
Eden Brewer [illegible] School Jazz [illegible] Yoshi's, 7 & 9 p.m. $15
School Lagoons [illegible] Evening Jazzschool, 10:30 p.m. $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Rumba Pacolas plus Gospel guests. The New Parish, 9:30 p.m. $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Irish Session Ireland's 32 [illegible] Grill, 8 p.m., free
Sure as Good Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m. $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Radio Jam from Pacolas Presents High School [illegible] Jazz Pictures! Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m. $15

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with The Buena and Mark Cauca. Elbo Room, 9 p.m., $6
[illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 p.m. free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Alec Burns with The Seagulls. Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m. $18

TUESDAY 24

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Gospel Open Mic Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $4.50, $6.50
Wolandede Zydeco plus a Cajun/Zydeco dance lesson with Cheryl Wimming at 8 p.m., Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m., $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

USM Showcase [illegible] Rookie [illegible] Yoshi's, 8 & 10 p.m. $5
Eddie Pasternak Duo w/ [illegible]. Cafe Rouge, 6:30 p.m. free
Jazzschool Tuesdays featuring students from the Berkeley Music [illegible]. Jupiter, 8 p.m. free
Wandelle, Flakes, & Favorites Mick's Lounge, 8:30 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Evil Evening Eddie Velasco, 8:15 p.m.
Kymbrell's [illegible] Presents featuring guests from Rogue Wave, Crown City Rockers, Pennywhistle's Boss, Bright Eyes, [illegible] and [illegible], 10 p.m., free
Vel Italia with Saloon Sounds and [illegible]. Stork Club, 9 p.m. $6

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The Wire Saloon spoken word event with comedy and [illegible]. Doug's Locker, 7 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

John Pacolas Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m., $20
Nnjai Pie Bounce Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $15-$20

Rock & Pop

"Dardo Cantinas" Tour Evening, The Phenomenauts with La Plebe and Street Justice. [illegible] of the Hill, 8 p.m. $10, $17
Conspiracy Of Beards & Evening School In Leonard Dustin with Society Of Rosaries and Crystals. Elbo Room, 9 p.m., $10
Rinks with Tiger Hatchery and Padiyville. Hemlock Tavern, 8 p.m. $6
Romance with Uptown Riot, Autonomy, Parker and TV Manshop. The Romance, 9 p.m. $9
Sean Gradley with Three Lines. Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m. $14
Twilight Singers with Gospel and Nuclear So-So's. The Fillmore, 8 p.m. $22.50

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Tanner Dunton Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m. $8

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Cyphon with Elana. The Independent, 9 p.m., $15

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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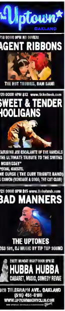
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DJ & DANCE

WEDNESDAY 18

EAST BAY

80s Night with Mr. DNA Mr. DNA spins songs from the '80s, plus drink specials by Cory. Easy Lounge. 9 p.m. free

Bonus Day w/ [illegible] & Bob Wendel of Amicus. The Massive Lounge. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

The Jet Set with DJ Santero and special guests. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 p.m. free

The Spin Off: Bump Day Hip-Hop w/ [illegible] spinning hip-hop. Club 21. 9 p.m. $6-$15

Porqueria Latin cowboy night w/ host Violeta. Bench and Bar. 7 p.m. $8-$15

spoonful Punk, indie, new wave, & classic rock w/ DJ Isaac Dame Money. Ruby Room. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Something Sanctum The Layover. 8:30 p.m. free

THURSDAY 19

EAST BAY

Afrodisiac Night w/ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, & Top 40. White Horse Inn. 9 p.m. $3 [illegible]

Club Fever w/ [illegible] Sound spinning reggae & dancehall. Shashamane Restaurant. 10 p.m. free

Cosmic Disco w/ DJs [illegible]. Shattuck Down Low. 9 p.m. free

Delicious Thursdays Radio. 10 p.m. free

DJ Add1 spinning [illegible]. Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 p.m. free

DJ Joey Ram spinning soul, funk, hip-hop, R&B & more. Easy Lounge. 10 p.m. free

DJ Tr[illegible] spinning lounge. [illegible] Lounge. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Jungle Boogie with DJs Poizen, Kool Kyle and [illegible]. Luka's Taproom. 9 p.m. free

Riff Raff w/ [illegible] pop, mashups, new wave. [illegible] Room. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. [illegible]

Saboteur [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible]. Jupiter. 8 p.m. free

Shake, Rattle n' Roll featuring DJ [illegible] spinning 40s/50s hits. Forbidden Island. 8 p.m. free

spinnin' [illegible] night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop & R&B. Club 21. 9 p.m. $12-$15

Throwback Thursdays Shibumi Highlands. 7 p.m. $4

Electro Groove Sessions featuring [illegible]. Bench and Bar. 9 p.m. free

FRIDAY 20

EAST BAY

After DJ Party Fridays [illegible]. New Karibbean City. 9:30 p.m.-2:30 a.m. $5 to $10

Bro Jam w/ [illegible] spinning [illegible]. Massive Lounge. 10 p.m. free

Club 21 w/ DJs spinning Latin music. Club 21. 9 p.m. $6-$15

Funkvision w/ DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible] in the Bay Area. White Horse Inn. 9 p.m. $5

DJ MOM x Sore Feet Soul Review The Layover. [illegible] p.m. free

DJ Night DJs spinning [illegible], mind-blowing soul, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant. 9:30 p.m. free

Friday Nite Beats w/ DJ Sage & Foxes. 10 p.m. $5

Kpi [illegible] Jupiter. 6-7 p.m. free

Latin Explosion DJ Jorge Eclipse spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, bachata, Spanish pop, & house. Bench and Bar. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. $6-$15

Ishtarlia weekly in-house DJ music. Amoeba Music. 7-10 p.m. free

Old School hip-hop and funk. [illegible] 9 p.m. free

Oldies Night with DJ Electro spinning reggae, soca, salsa, & R&B. Island Paradise Club. 10 p.m. ladies free before 11:30 p.m.

Oolantic DJ Joe Quinn spins funk, Latin, & dub. Easy Lounge. 10 p.m. free

Retrodance [illegible] hosts '80s pop night. Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 p.m. free

Sultry Fridays DJ Lash & Fat Rob spin R&B & soul. Kimball's Carnival. 9 p.m. $5

Testify w/ DJ [illegible] spinning northern soul, Motown, '60s, disco, punk, new wave, & rock 'n' roll. Ruby Room. 10 p.m. free

Bomba Fridays featuring DJ Tropic spinning [illegible] salsa, Dominican salsa, merengue, dancehall reggae, bhangra, Arabic music, & more. Congo Lounge. 10 p.m.

SATURDAY 21

EAST BAY

All Productions & Hennessey DJs spinning R&B & hip-hop. Forest. 10 p.m. [illegible]

Club Maxwell's DJs Jerry Ross & Soul [illegible] spin R&B, soul, funk, reggae, & hip-hop. Maxwell's Lounge. 9 p.m. $20

Club Kimball w/ [illegible] & guests spinning hip-hop & R&B. Bench and Bar. 9 p.m. $6-$12

Electro Groove w/ [illegible] and Emily spinning electro, indie pop, funk, soul, & funk. The Massive Lounge. 10 p.m. free

Superstar Saturday Night w/ DJ [illegible]. White Horse Inn. 9 p.m. $5

La Bota Loca Latino cowboy night w/ DJs spinning salsa, norteño, & banda, plus hot go-go vaqueras. Club 21. 9 p.m. $6-$15

Pop Motley 531 DJs spin pop hits from the Stooges to [illegible] Jackson. Ruby Room. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Smoove Saturdays DJ Jamo & special guests spin soul, hip-hop, R&B, salsa, reggaetón, & more. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 p.m. $10

Warm-Up w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B. The Massive Lounge. 6-10 p.m. free

SUNDAY 22

EAST BAY

Doors by Quixotic beats, funk, & more. Easy Lounge. 9 p.m. free

Cultures DJs [illegible] & special guests spin funk, soul, tech house, & more. Club [illegible]. 10 p.m. free

Chill Sundays Bench and Bar. 9 p.m. $6

Conan Neutron spinning soul on vinyl. Rite 330. 10 p.m. free

DJ Rowdy Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 p.m. free

King of Kings DJ Smoke One and guests spin reggae, dancehall, roots, & lovers' rock. Shattuck Down Low. 9 p.m. $10, ladies/students free before 11 p.m.

Lay It Down Sundays featuring DJ Tim Diesel. The Layover. 9 p.m. free

Mojo w/ DJ [illegible] spinning soul, funk, & Afrocentric old-school. Somar Bar & Lounge. 9 p.m. free

The Soul-Full Glow DJ [illegible] & guests spin soulful grooves. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 p.m. free

Uptown Ska Sundays DJs spin ska, rocksteady, & roots reggae. The Stork Club. 7 p.m. free

MONDAY 23

EAST BAY

Fix. 80s Night featuring DJs spinning rock and 80s [illegible]. The Layover. 9:30 p.m. free

Monday Soul featuring Dar B-Sharp. [illegible] The New Parish. 10 p.m. $5

Underground Lounge psycho, 80s & [illegible] 70s music. Radio. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Wanna Hang Out? w/ DJ [illegible] spinning rock and roll, soft hits, oldies, & soul. The Massive Lounge. 10 p.m. free

TUESDAY 24

EAST BAY

DJ Isaac Dame Money spinning rock, indie, punk, new wave, & more. The Golden Lounge. 10 p.m. free

DJ Joe Quinn spinning funk & Latin funk. Cozy Lounge. 9 p.m. free

Escape college night featuring DJ Sparrky & [illegible]. Club 21. 9 p.m. free

Inas Quiles Spins Vinyl Bench and Bar. 9 p.m. free

Soul Funk Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 p.m.

Vintage featuring DJ Tosh One & weekly guests spinning deep cuts from the '80s through tomorrow. Lavanda Cafe. 7 p.m. free

WEDNESDAY 25

EAST BAY

80s Night with Mr. DNA Mr. DNA spins songs from the '80s, plus drink specials by Cory. Easy Lounge. 9 p.m. free

Bump Day w/ DJs [illegible] & Bob Wendel of Amicus. The Massive Lounge. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

The Jet Set with DJ Santero and special guests. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 p.m. free

The Spin Off: Bump Day Hip-Hop w/ [illegible] spinning hip-hop. Club 21. 9 p.m. $6-$15

Porqueria Latin cowboy night w/ host Violeta. Bench and Bar. 7 p.m. $8-$15

spoonful Punk, indie, new wave, & classic rock w/ DJ Isaac Dame Money. Ruby Room. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Sublime Wednesdays DJ [illegible] & top-hop guests spin salsa, samba, merengue, reggaetón, & more, plus basic dance lessons. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 8 p.m. free ■

PICK

Eclectic Method

In this case, the method is actually less eclectic than the media. The new monthly party by local producers **Justin Roja** and **Tom Roche** features collage-style remixes that include bits of music videos, movies, video games, TV clips (like the notorious *Good Morning America* interview with **Charlie Sheen**), concerts, and other YouTube ephemera. The resulting mash-ups are quirky and sometimes illuminating, when they don't devolve into shtick. The inaugural party will feature **DJ Rick-One**, who is kind of a pastiche artist in his own right. Roja and Roche promise to bring in a slew of guest artists as the event evolves. *At* **Mezzanine** *(444 Jessie St., San Francisco) on Friday, May 20. 9 p.m., $15-$20. MezzanineSF.com.* — *Rachel Swan*

LUKA'S TAPROOM & LOUNGE
VOTED BEST PLACE TO DANCE & BEST PICK UP BAR
EAST BAY EXPRESS
WED 9PM THE JET SET DJ J & DJ SANTERO
THUR 10PM JUNGLE BOOGIE DJs POIZEN & KOOL KYLE hip hop, soul & your requests!
FRI 10PM FULL SPECTRUM
SAT 10PM SMOOVE SATURDAYS
SUN 9PM THE SOUL FULL GLOW
MON 9PM THREE DAY WEEKEND
TUES 10PM THE NEW SOUL FYAH RESIDENT DJ SERO
New Late Night Happy Hour!!!
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$5 Margaritas
$3 Beer Specials
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FRI 5/20 9:30PM $10 LITTLE WINGS
SAT 5/21 9:30PM $1 MAURICE TANI
SUN 5/22 2PM $5
THU 5/26 8PM $10
FRI 5/27 9:30PM $5 ROSIN COVEN
SAT 5/28 9:30PM $6 SAYTHING
SUN 5/29 2PM $8
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LEGAL NOTICES

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 450001427

The following individuals doing business as **G.E., LLC; Clover Management; BlackLabelRECORDS Group; BlackLabelPUBLISHING; BlackLabelImage; BlackLabelRAP; BlackLabelSKA**, [illegible] CA [illegible] Mailing Address Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] CA 94611. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above [illegible] This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 4/18/2011.

G.E., LLC; Clover Management; BlackLabelRECORDS Group; BlackLabelPUBLISHING; BlackLabelImage; BlackLabelRAP; BlackLabelSKA
5/4, 5/11, 5/18, 5/25/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 450070

The following individuals doing business as **Bonsai Masters Statement Club** Street Address 1111 Camino del Valle, [illegible] CA 94502 Mailing Address Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] This business is conducted by a general partnership. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/16/1991. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 4/25/2011.

Stock Bonsai Statement Club
4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 05/18/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 450166

The following individual is doing business as **Ryan Health** [illegible] This business is conducted by an unincorporated association other than a partnership. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 04/01/2011.

Ryan Health
4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 05/18/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 450061

The following individuals doing business as **MJC Investigations** [illegible] This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County [illegible]

MJC Investigations
5/11, 5/18, 5/25, [illegible]

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 450070

The following individuals doing business as **Lin's International Collaboration** [illegible] Hayward, CA [illegible] This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 04/12/2011.

Lin's International Collaboration
4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 05/18/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 450073

The following individuals doing business as [illegible] This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County [illegible]

Pony Express
4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 05/18/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 450088

The following individuals doing business as [illegible] Oakland [illegible] This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. [illegible] This Statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Alameda County on 04/[illegible]

5th Street [illegible]
4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 05/18/2011

[illegible]

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: [illegible]

Superior Court of California, County of Alameda [illegible] CA 94612 [illegible] Petitioner: JAMES [illegible] filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name [illegible] to Proposed Name [illegible] THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

NOTICE OF HEARING August [illegible], 2011, at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. # 31, at 201 13th St., 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California. Dated: April 29, 2011 Signed: Jon R. Rolefson Judge of the Superior Court

5/11, 5/18, 5/25, 6/1/2011

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: RG11570750

Superior Court of California County of Alameda 1221 Oak St Oakland, CA 94612 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS Petitioner: ELIZABETH [illegible] NOYES filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name ELIZABETH [illegible] NOYES to Proposed Name ELIZABETH [illegible] THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

NOTICE OF HEARING August 26, 2011, at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. # 31, at 201 13th St., 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California. Dated: April 29, 2011 Signed: Jon R. Rolefson Judge of the Superior Court

5/4, 5/11, 5/18, 5/25/2011

PETS/PET SUPPLIES

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO CIRCULATE PETITION Notice is hereby given by the persons whose names appear hereon of their intent to circulate the petition within the City of Emeryville for the purpose of amending the Emeryville Municipal Code to specify that the position of City Attorney shall be filled by contracting with an outside attorney or law firm. A statement of the reasons of the proposed action as contemplated is as follows: Emeryville has in the past, often filled the position of City Attorney by contracting with an outside attorney or law firm. In recent history, however, the position has been filled by a city employee, who has proceeded to set up an entire city department under him. As a result, the City is forced to provide and pay for employee benefits for this department and is bound by the extensive laws and regulations for those public employees. This measure would return Emeryville to hiring an outside attorney or law firm as City Attorney as do most small California cities. There would be savings in both money and efficiency. Ken Bukowski 5800 Doyle St. Emeryville, California 94608. INITIATIVE ORDINANCE AMENDING EMERYVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE §2-1.302 TO PROHIBIT THE EMERYVILLE CITY COUNCIL FROM EMPLOYING A CITY ATTORNEY AND SUBORDINATE EMPLOYEES IN THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND REQUIRE THE CITY COUNCIL BY CONTRACT TO DESIGNATE A CITY ATTORNEY OR A LAW FIRM TO ACT AS CITY ATTORNEY. The City Council of the City of Emeryville contracts with the Management of Emeryville Services Authority ("MESA") to provide the City of Emeryville with contract city employees for all positions within the City, with the exception of those employees governed by two Memoranda of Understanding (labor agreements) between the City of Emeryville, on the one hand, and the Emeryville Police Officers' Association and International Association of Fire Fighters Local 55 respectively on the other. MESA is a Joint Powers Authority formed by the City of Emeryville and the Emeryville Redevelopment Agency. The Emeryville City Council sits as the Board of Directors of MESA. The current Emeryville City Attorney, and two individuals within the City Attorney's office are employees of MESA and not of the City of Emeryville. This initiative measure would amend Emeryville Municipal Code section 2-1.302 as follows: 1. The City Council would be prohibited from employing a City Attorney or any employees in the City Attorney's office. The Council by contract would be required to appoint a City Attorney or law firm. The current contract between the City and MESA already conforms to the provisions of the proposed initiative measure in that none of the members of the City Attorney's office, including the City Attorney, are employees of the City of Emeryville. 2. The measure would require the City Manager to make recommendations to the City Council as to the City Attorney's contract. This is not the current practice. 3. The term of the City Attorney's contract would be limited to two years. The initiative measure would have no legal effect on current practices in the City because the contract of the Emeryville City Attorney is for not more than a two year term, as required by Emeryville Municipal Code section 2-7.600

T.S. No. 11-2464-11 Loan No. [illegible] NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 9/25/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: Richard S. Park, an unmarried man and Kathryn Ilovel an unmarried woman Duly Appointed Trustee: The Wolf Firm, A Law Corporation Recorded 10/05/2007 as Instrument No. 2007349359 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, Date of Sale: 6/1/2011 at 12:00 PM Place of Sale: At the Fallon St. emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St., Oakland, CA Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $[illegible] Street Address or other common designation of real property: 1500 Park Avenue #321 Emeryville, CA 94608 A.P.N.: 049-1495-095 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. Date: 5/9/2011 The Wolf Firm, A Law Corporation 2955 Main Street, 2nd Floor Irvine, California 92614 (949) 720-9200 Foreclosure Dept. Fax (949) 608-0130 Sale Information Only: (714) 573-1965 Renee C. Murray, Foreclosure Manager P869942 5/11, 5/18, 5/25/2011

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No GM-235204-C Loan No 0307312172 Insurer No [illegible] YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 09/06/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by the duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to satisfy the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. TRUSTOR: DERRICK LEE, AN UNMARRIED MAN Recorded 09/11/2006 as Instrument No. 2006354891 in Book XX, page XX of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, Date of Sale: 06/01/2011 at 12:30 P.M. Place of Sale: At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 Property Address is purported to be: 73 CITY LIMITS CIR EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 APN#: 049-1545-078 The total amount secured by said instrument as of the time of initial publication of this notice is $551,240.39, which includes the total amount of the unpaid balance (including accrued and unpaid interest) and reasonable estimated costs, expenses, and advances at the time of initial publication of this notice. Pursuant to California Civil Code 2923.54 the undersigned, on behalf of the beneficiary, loan servicer or authorized agent, declares as follows: [1] The mortgage loan servicer has obtained from the commissioner a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to Section 2923.53 that is current and valid on the date the notice of sale is filed; [ ] The timeframe for giving notice of sale specified in subdivision (a) of Section 2923.52 does not apply pursuant to Section 2923.52 or 2923.55. Date: 05/04/2011 EXECUTIVE TRUSTEE SERVICES, INC. 2255 North Ontario Street, Suite 400 Burbank, CA 91504-3120 Sale Line: 714-730-2727 Rosalia Peterson, TRUSTEE SALE OFFICER ASAP# 3977136 05/11/2011, 05/18/2011, 05/25/2011

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 09-0032[illegible] Title Order No. 09-8-391481 Investor/Insurer No. [illegible] APN No. 049-1547-004 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 07/26/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER." Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by DORA G ROYSTER, SINGLE WOMAN, dated 07/26/2005 and recorded 08/0[illegible], as Instrument No. 2005330960, in Book , Page , of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on 05/25/2011 at 12:30PM, At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1123 40TH STREET, EMERYVILLE, CA, 94608. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $343,308.46. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. DATED: 12/02/2009 RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., CA6-914-01-94 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: (800) 281 8219, Sale Information (626) 927-4399 By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# 3977[illegible] 05/04/2011, 05/11/2011, 05/18/2011

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 20110015001675 Title Order No. 110044351 FHA/VA/PMI No.: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 05/24/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NDEX WEST, LLC, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 06/01/2007 as Instrument No. 2007217009 of official records in the office of the County Recorder of ALAMEDA County, State of CALIFORNIA. EXECUTED BY: STEVEN BELL, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). DATE OF SALE: 05/31/2011 TIME OF SALE: 12:30 PM PLACE OF SALE: AT THE FALLON STREET ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURT HOUSE, 1225 FALLON STREET, OAKLAND, CA. STREET ADDRESS and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 892 53RD ST, EMERYVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94608 APN#: 049-1194-015 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $351,200.57. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: AGENCY SALES & POSTING 3210 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 200 IRVINE, CA 92602 714-730-2727 www.lpsasap.com NDEx West, L.L.C. MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NDEx West, L.L.C. as Trustee Dated: 05/04/2011 NDEx West, L.L.C. 15000 Surveyor Boulevard, Suite 500 Addison, Texas 75001-9013 Telephone: (866) 795-1852 Telecopier (972) 661-7800 ASAP# 3984[illegible] 05/11/2011, 05/18/2011, 05/25/2011

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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 09-0069637 Title Order No. 09-8-334338 Investor/Insurer No. [illegible] APN No. 049-1529-596 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 06/[illegible]/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER." Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by CAROLE FANNING, A SINGLE WOMAN, dated 06/[illegible]/2006 and recorded 06/[illegible]/06, as Instrument No. [illegible], in Book , Page , of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on 06/06/2011 at 12:30PM, At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 4 ANCHOR DRIVE #406, EMERYVILLE, CA, 94608. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $360,955.02. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. DATED: 11/19/2009 RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., CA6-914-01-94 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: (800) 281 8219, Sale Information (626) 927-4399 By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# 3901275 05/18/2011, 05/25/2011, 06/01/2011

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 11-[illegible] Title Order No. 11-[illegible] Investor/Insurer No. [illegible] APN No. 049-1535-008 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 10/26/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER." Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by TIGISTE WAGAYE AND WOUDENESH WAGAYE, dated [illegible] and recorded [illegible], as Instrument No. [illegible], in Book , Page , of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on 05/25/2011 at 12:30PM, At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 6400 CHRISTIE AVENUE #1107, EMERYVILLE, CA, 94608. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $420,030.03. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. DATED: [illegible] RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., CA6-914-01-94 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: (800) 281 8219, Sale Information (626) 927-4399 By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# 3983423 05/04/2011, 05/11/2011, 05/18/2011

Trustee Sale No. 745460CA Loan No. 3017921434 Title Order No. 100325635-CA-MAI NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 7/6/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 6/8/2011 at 12:00 PM CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded 07/17/2007, Book , Page , Instrument 2007261340, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, executed by: Nina [illegible], an unmarried woman, as Trustor, Washington Mutual Bank, FA, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: At the Fallon St. emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St., Oakland, CA Legal Description: As more fully described in said Deed of Trust Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $407,102.80 (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: 1007 41st Street #325 Emeryville, CA 94608 APN Number: 049-1022-[illegible] The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". In compliance with California Civil Code 2923.5(c) the mortgagee, trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent declares: that it has contacted the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure; or that it has made efforts to contact the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure by one of the following methods: by telephone; by United States mail; either 1st class or certified; by overnight delivery; by personal delivery; by e-mail; by face to face meeting. Date: 5/17/2011 California Reconveyance Company, as Trustee [illegible] Nunez, Assistant Secretary CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. California Reconveyance Company 9200 Oakdale Avenue Mail Stop: CA2-4379 Chatsworth, CA 91311 800-892-6902 For Sales Information: (714) 730-2727 or www.lpsasap.com (714) 573-1965 or www.priorityposting.com P834465 5/18, 5/25, 06/01/2011

SAVAGE LOVE

MATTERS OF SIZE

Comments from both sides of the aisle.

By Dan Savage

I am a 45-year-old heterosexual male. My last relationship lasted nearly seven years. I am currently single. I am discouraged. One of the reasons for my discouragement: I have to get too far into a relationship before I can determine if it will work out with any particular woman. An awful lot of emotion, time, and effort are required to get that first look into a woman's panties. And this is where my problem lies. A woman can have the sweetest personality, she can be pretty and hardworking, but if her pussy isn't bald and her "little man in the boat" doesn't fit comfortably in my mouth, I am NOT turned on. I require a shaved pussy and a big clit.

I have asked women with whom I've become close to go bald. If the answer is no, there is no need to return. I respect a woman's control over her own body, of course. But I like a big clit. She may or may not be bald, but if the clit isn't big enough, there's no sense in returning. I have heard women say that they were disappointed to find that a man's dick was too small or too large, or they didn't like that it curved to the left or right. Do I have a right to a similar preference? What do I do?

Call Me Asshole

Knowing that she could be disqualified due to the size of her clit, which she can do nothing about, or the presence of pubic hair, which she can do something about (but might not want to), is information a woman might want before she invests a lot of emotion, time, and effort in you, CMA. Or any emotion, time, and effort. But there's literally no way to ask a woman to show you her clit or to verify either her "baldness" or willingness to go bald in advance of that crucial first date. Even women with six-inch clits who suffer from neck-down alopecia are going to run screaming after hearing a request like that.

Don't get me wrong, CMA. It's a fine thing to have preferences, to be aware of them, and to be able to articulate them. And most people would prefer to be with someone whose preferences roughly jibe with their attributes. But most of us would also like to think — even if it's not true — that our personalities are so winning that our partners would love us even if, say, our clits were tiny and our pubes towering.

So what do you do? Well, CMA, since being upfront about your very particular deal-breaking preferences would result in your never seeing another pussy again in your life, I think you keep your mouth shut. You're just going to have to date and invest the time. And then if you discover once you get into her pants that her clit is too small or her pussy is too hairy, CMA, just make up a nice, polite, it's-not-you-it's-me lie. It wouldn't be fair to leave her wondering what the hell is wrong with her when in fact there's something wrong with you.

Kinky female here, age 26. For as long as I've been sexually active, I've been ridiculously turned on by guys with huge cocks. I love the way they look and feel in my hands and when they're inside me. This isn't to say that I'd date a guy purely on cock enormity alone. I wouldn't. But I'm not sure what to do about my current situation. I'm dating someone now who shares my same values — he's flamingly liberal and actually enjoys RuPaul's Drag Race — but we don't have the greatest sexual chemistry. Some of it's because he's pretty vanilla, although he's GGG, but a lot of it is that his dick is average. Sadly. Am I wrong to want a guy with the lower half of a horse? If so, can I retrain myself to accept, and even want, an average or below-average penis?

Female Phallophiliac

You don't say how long you've been dating this guy, FP. If you've been fucking him for a while and you still haven't found a groove, well, it might be best to move on. But if you've been dating him a short time, FP, and there's been some noticeable improvement on the chemistry front, you might want to stick around. Sometimes the chemistry is there and obvious from the start; sometimes chemistry kicks into gear after a few weeks or months. If you dig him, then he's worth the investment of a little time. As for the little dick, well...

How big is his forearm?

I'm a partnered gay man who happens to have a small cock. When I was younger, I was often embarrassed, but I have gotten used to it and I can't change it and I know how to enjoy it now.

Among my friends, small-dick jokes are common. Not directed at me, but generic jokes and comments suggesting that guys with small dicks aren't real men, or should always bottom, or aren't worth dating. And it has begun to make me feel much more self-conscious, especially since a couple of the guys I've heard making those jokes are intimately familiar with my cock. They know I'm small. It wasn't an issue, because they initiated the sex and wanted it more than once. I had a six-month fuck buddy relationship with one of these guys and I topped him, so I know he didn't have an issue with my size.

Is this just some self-esteem issue that I've been unaware of and need to deal with? Or should I say something, at least to the two guys I've had sex with?

Sensitive Matters And Lessons Learned

You should definitely say something to the two ingrates you've had sex with, SMALL, and to anyone else who makes small-dick jokes in your presence. You don't have to volunteer to men you haven't fucked that you happen to have a small dick yourself. Just point out that in any group, there are going to be guys with smaller-than-average endowments and that it's just not cool to make those guys feel bad or inadequate — particularly when studies show that the partners of men with smaller-than-average dicks report higher levels of sexual satisfaction than people whose partners have larger-than-average dicks. ●

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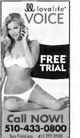

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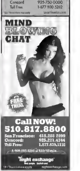

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